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Tanong ng Bayan / A22

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INQ INQ TV TV

Padilla name missing on official Comelec list

By Cynthia D. Balana

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PADILLA/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Chinoy upstart threatens to end Zamboanga dynasty

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Friday, May 7, 2004 ★★★ 78 pages / 9 sections / vol. 19 / no. 149 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Bro. Eddie rally draws 1M

Bangon Pilipinas bet claims 5M attended

By Leila B. Salaverria, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Christine O. Avendaño and Phillip Tubeza

THE QUIRINO Grandstand in Manila turned into a sea of yellow as at least a million supporters of presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva turned up for his *miting de avance* yesterday, four days before the May 10 elections.

Villanueva's spokesperson Luis Sison said he expected three million people to show up at the rally, which began at noon and was expected to last until 10 last night.

By 5:30 p.m., the mostly yellow-clad crowd was estimated at 600,000, according to police officer Eric Florentino of the Western Police District.

But at 7:35 p.m., Villanueva of Bangon Pilipinas claimed in his speech that the crowd had reached five million with his supporters gathered from Taft Avenue to the grandstand.

"The deliverance of the Filipino people is at hand.... We will not fail in our crusade for change.... The support you give to Bro. Eddie is your support to God's agenda to change the Philippines," Villanueva told the ecstatic crowd.

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He said he would wipe out graft and corruption so that the money saved would be used to pay the country's debts. Among those who joined the *miting de avance* were actor Piolo Pascual and Catholic charismatic leader Fr. Leonardo Polinar.

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The police, however, disputed Villanueva's claim and said the crowd was concentrated only in

BRO. EDDIE/ A18

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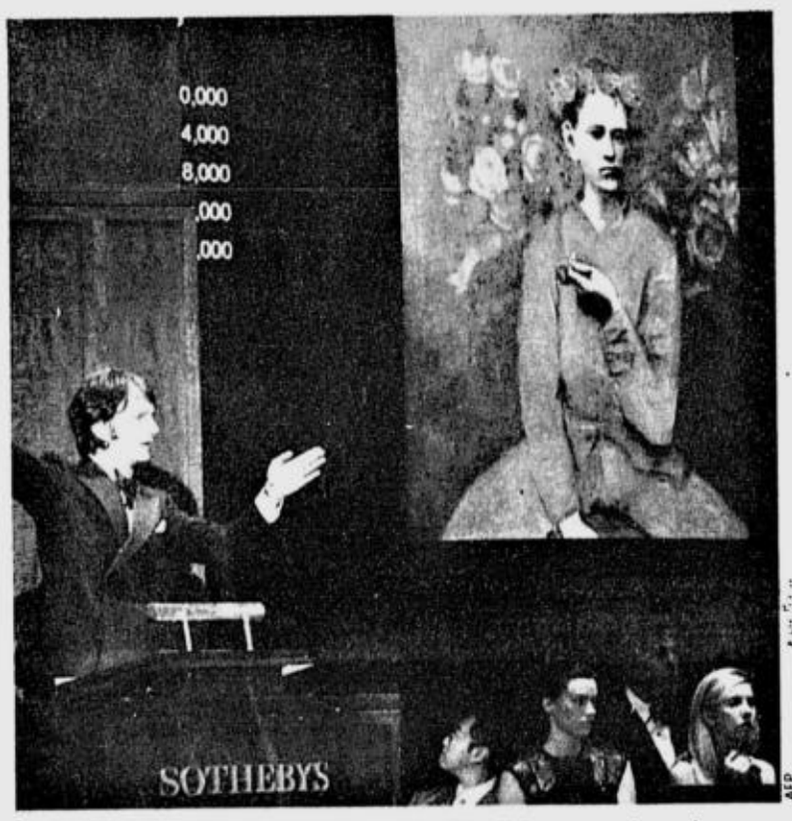

AFP

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PICASSO/ A19

It's official: INC voting for GMA

By Gil Cabacungan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana and Carlito Pablo

WITH THE Iglesia ni Cristo now officially behind President Macapagal-Arroyo, it will take "no less than a miracle" for her rivals to pull off an upset in the May 10 elections.

This fearless forecast was aired yesterday by Michael Defensor, the President's campaign spokesperson, who ended days of speculation with his formal announcement that the INC had chosen to support Ms Macapagal and her running mate, Sen. Noli de Castro.

"If this were a 15-round boxing match, the President would win by a knockout and not by a split decision," Defensor said.

The INQUIRER reported the INC's support of Ms Macapagal as early as Sunday, quoting a Malacañang official who asked not to be named, as well as ousted President Joseph Estrada.

In a statement faxed to the INQUIRER last night, the INC said Ms Macapagal and De Castro were

IT'S OFFICIAL/ A20

El Shaddai, too, is for Gloria

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Carlito Pablo

TARLAC CITY—Even the charismatic group El Shaddai is supporting President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidacy.

Ms Macapagal emerged from a 40-minute meeting last night with El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and expressed happiness, but left it to the group's spokesperson, Mel Robles, to make the crucial announcement.

"After explaining to [Velarde] her platform of government, particularly her position on four El Shaddai issues, [Velarde] gave the President the El Shaddai shepherd's blessing," Robles said.

He said two of the issues that Ms Macapagal and Velarde agreed on were the convening of a constitutional convention immediately after the elections, and the pursuit of national healing and reconciliation between the Edsa II and III forces.

The meeting took place inside Velarde's bus as the El Shaddai prayer rally was going on at the provincial capitol in this city.

EL SHADDAI/ A18

THE CHARM OFFENSIVE REVISITED — ELEKSYON 2004

Lacson: No intention of coming back with his body on his shield

Editor's Note: With this report, the INQUIRER concludes a series of updates on the campaign styles and impact of the five presidential candidates who were featured here in March.

By Ruben Alabastro
Desk Editor

WHEN GREEK warriors of old went off to war, their mothers would tell them: "Come back victorious, or come back dead."

A warrior to the hilt and facing the biggest battle of his political life as a presidential candidate in Monday's elections, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson says he has no intention of coming back with his body on his shield.

"It's all or nothing, yes, but I should come back victorious," the opposition senator told the INQUIRER as his bullet-proof Lexus SUV drove him off to a late-night meeting after thousands of residents of the fishing town of Malabon mobbed him at a rally.

Purely a boast or the hallucinations of a man running a poor third in survey ratings?

The lusty welcome he received in Malabon's Barangay Longos four nights ago made one wonder that maybe the man was not really wallowing in delusion.

As the crowd of 5,000 packed into the middle of the C-4 highway chanted his name, the women among them went shrieking after him, grabbing his hands and throwing their arms around him.

Aides grasped Lacson by his belt, fearing he would fall off the rickety stage.

At one point, an electric bulb in a *sari-sari* store exploded and a stampede broke out. Lacson's bodyguards, unsure of what it was all about, quickly formed a security wall around him.

After Lacson spoke, escorts cleared a path so he could get back to his car.

But the surging crowd jostled him off in another direction, and an old woman threw herself at him. In a rare show of warmth,

LACSON/ A20

PDI PHOTO

A WARRIOR to the hilt, Sen. Panfilo Lacson faces the biggest battle of his life on May 10, and he says he has every intention of winning. By his side is his wife Alice.

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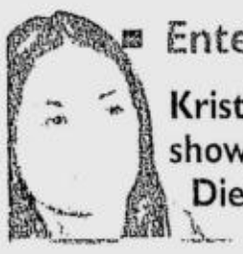

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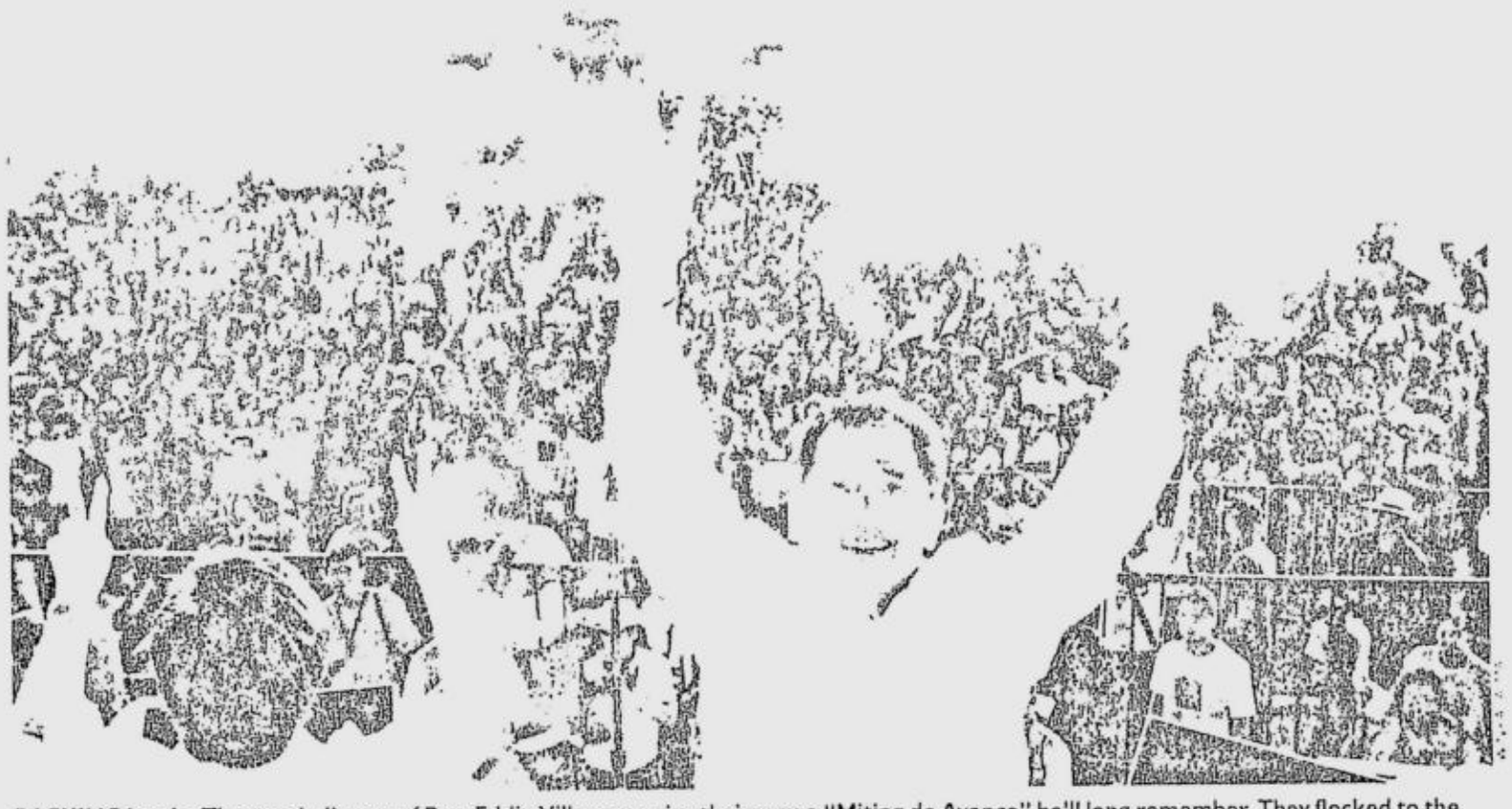
BRO. EDDIE A16



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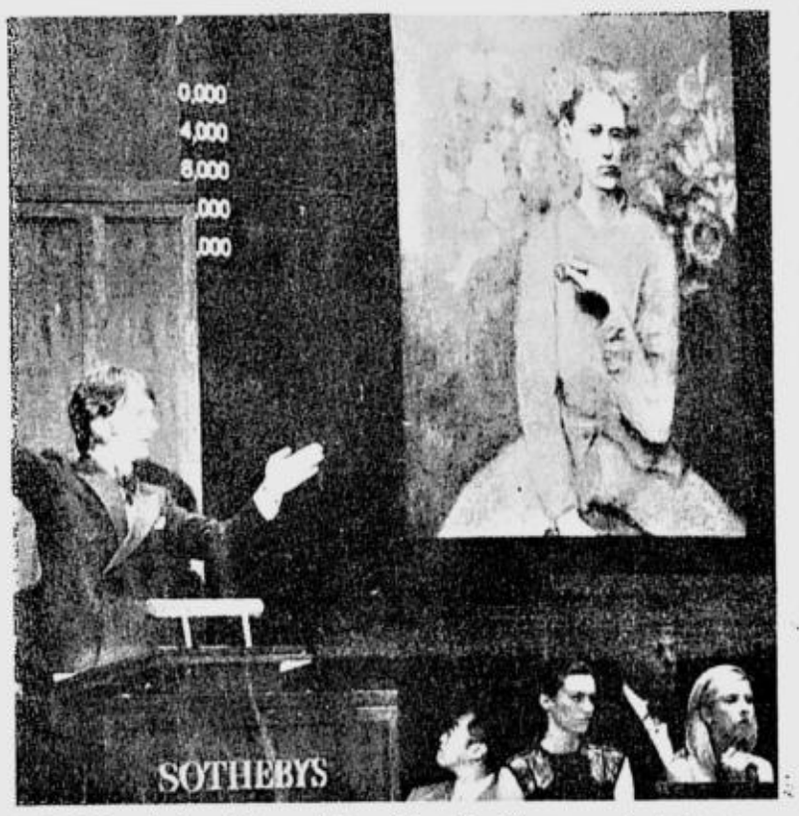

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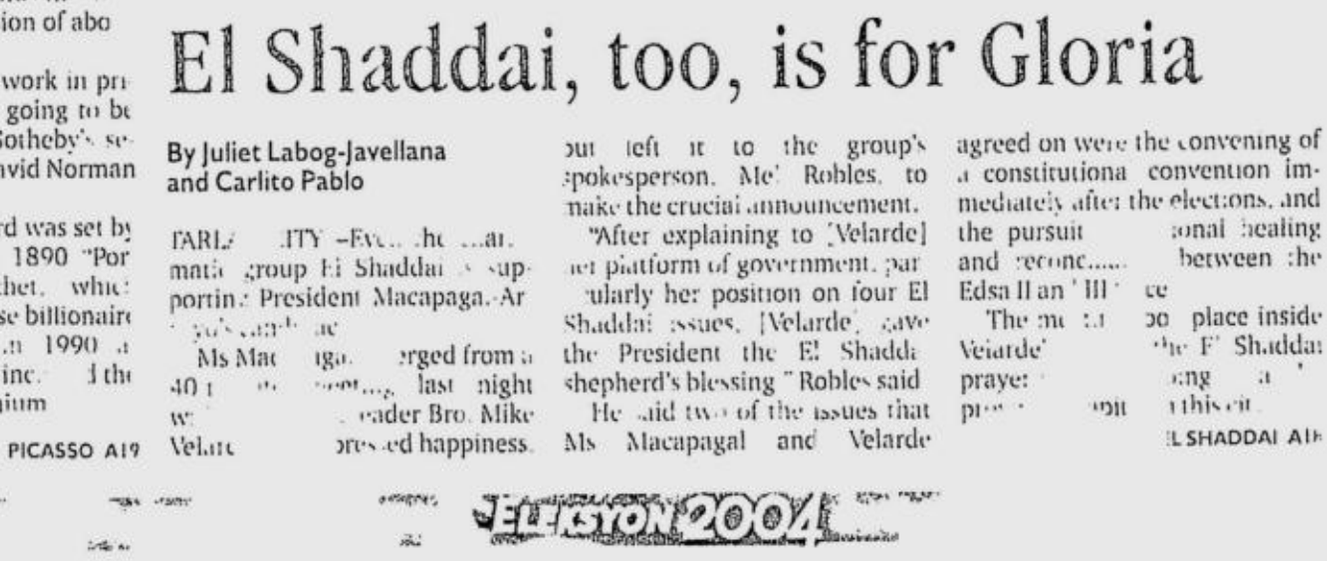
LACSON A20



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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly clourainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/28/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

If it's 'Bong,' it's for Bong Revilla

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court yesterday upheld the Commission on Elections' decision that votes cast for "Bong" would be counted in favor of administration senatorial candidate Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

In a two-page resolution, the high court junked the petition of Alyansa ng Pag-Asa senatorial candidate Olivia "Bong" Coo since she failed to prove that the Comelec committed a grave abuse of discretion when it allowed Revilla to amend his certificate of candidacy (COC).

Revilla had initially put "Kap" as his nickname in his COC. The Comelec approved his request to change it to "Bong" on April 28.

Coo appealed the Comelec decision before the high court on Tuesday, claiming that the poll body and Revilla connived in defrauding her of the right to due process. She claimed that the Comelec approved Revilla's request without informing her of his petition.

Coo said this deprived her of her fundamental right to comment on Revilla's petition.

The Supreme Court disagreed.

It said that Coo had stated in her COC that her nickname or stage name was "Bong Coo" while Revilla declared that his surname was "Bong Revilla," his first name Ramon Jr., and his nickname or stage name "Kap."

"Undeniably, 'Bong Coo' is not the same as 'Bong,'" the SC said.

The tribunal added that the Comelec law department found out that Revilla had consistently used "Bong" as his nickname when he ran for vice-governor and governor of Cavite in the 1995, 1998 and 2001 elections.

It noted that Coo did not challenge this finding of the Comelec law department.

SC strikes down Comelec quick count

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court yesterday stopped the Commission on Elections from conducting a quick count of the May 10 elections by ordering the poll body to "observe the status quo" before April 28 when the Comelec issued a resolution for it to conduct its own "very quick" count.

The high court issued the order while it deliberates on a petition of opposition lawyer Sixto Brilliantes Jr. asking the tribunal to stop the Comelec from conducting a quick count to prevent "trending" and creating confusion in the polls.

The SC gave the Comelec until noon on Saturday to comment on Brilliantes' petition.

But Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. did not wait for the Saturday deadline and immediately rushed to the SC at about 1 p.m. yesterday.

Abalos told reporters he was there to talk to Justice Reynato Puno "or whoever is around."

"It hurts. I cannot understand the Supreme Court," he said.

"We want to convince the justices to give us a chance ... They issued the order without hearing our side. We are an independent body with plenary authority," he added.

SC Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno said Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. had told the justices and court officials to be ready to hold a special session, possibly on Sunday, the eve of elections.

The very quick count, estimated to cost the government another P360 to P400 million, was the second major Comelec project to be stopped by the high court.

The SC on Jan. 13 voided the P1.3 billion contract to purchase automated counting machines from the Mega Pacific consortium.

Abalos said the status quo order should be lifted immediately as the Comelec needed to prepare for the quick count.

"The elections are on Monday. What do we do with our preparations? It's not that easy. What will happen to us?" he said.

Abalos bitterly noted that the high court did not issue a similar status quo order when the Comelec was still preparing its automated counting machines project.

The SC voided the project only after the ACMs were already delivered, he added.

How it works

Abalos and his assistants proceeded to the office of Justice Puno who took him to Davide's office.

After meeting with Davide for 20 minutes, Abalos told reporters the chief justice had promised to give the Comelec a chance to present how the quick count works. He thanked Davide for agreeing to meet with him.

He added the poll body would also try to come up with a comment on Brilliantes' petition yesterday.

Abalos warned that the floodgates to widespread cheating would be opened if the poll body is prevented from conducting its own quick count.

He said it was meant to address the problem of fraudulent poll practices like *dagdagbawas*, or vote-shaving and -padding.

"But then, here we are again, open to all of these kinds of cheating. The switching of election returns will again be there. Though we have some security measures, the dagdagbawas happens during the consolidation [of election returns]," he said.

In his petition, Brilliantes said the April 28 Comelec resolution that allowed the poll body to conduct its own "very quick" count of election results should be voided to prevent widespread confusion after the voting.

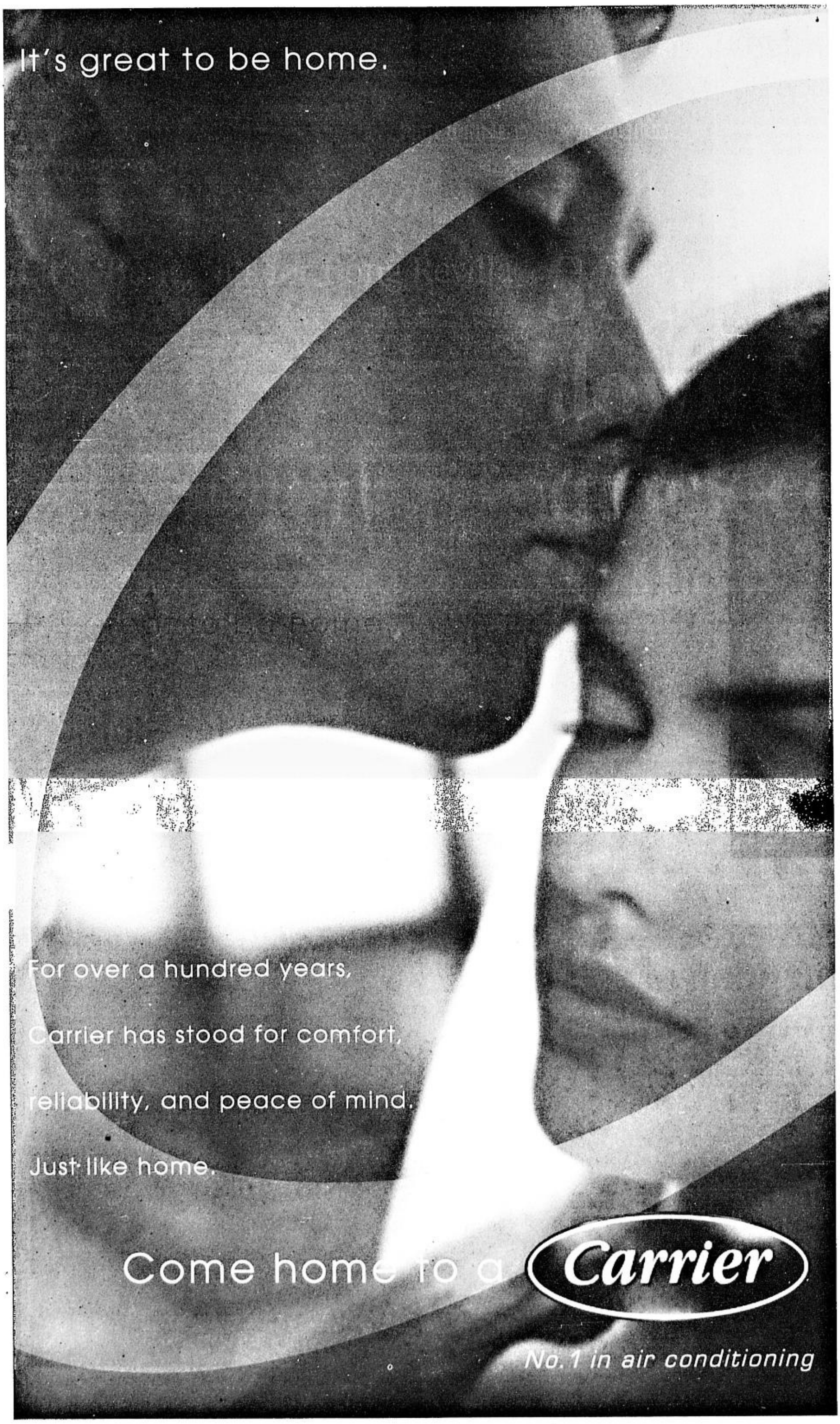
The poll body's quick count, dubbed the Very-Quick Comelec ET, is purported to be tamper-proof and would be conducted through the electronic transmission of advanced election results for all elective positions.

Brilliantes argued that the Comelec's quick count would result in "absolute chaos" as the National Movement for Free Elections, the Comelec's citizen's arm, will be conducting its own Comelec-approved quick count.

"Electronic transmission of advanced election results will definitely cause trending, much confusion and chaos, and baseless filing of election protest cases and controversies," Brilliantes said.

And when the poll body itself is the one creating the "unofficial" trend, "the confusion will definitely double, to the benefit of no one, save the one favored by the trending Comelec," Brilliantes added.

He claimed that even when it was only Namfrel conducting a quick count, confusion also resulted as the Namfrel's quick count results did not tally with the Comelec's slow manual count.



Terror alert raised

THE COUNTRY has been placed on high alert for terror attacks around Monday's election after security forces arrested several suspected Muslim militants, seized explosives, and uncovered a cell linked to al-Qaida.

About 43 million voters will flock to schools and town halls across the country to elect more than 17,000 national, provincial and local officials.

Malacañang has marshalled thousands of police and army reinforcements into Manila and said yesterday that the anti-terror task force uncovered a cell of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) regional band linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

"The threats are real," Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, military chief of operations, told Reuters.

A 46-year-old Muslim man arrested in Mindanao is believed to have received $25,000 from al-Qaida via JI operatives here, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters.

Bomb attacks

At the end of March, security forces arrested six militants accused by President Macapagal-Arroyo of plotting major bomb attacks in Manila.

"JI has been pressuring local militants to produce results," an army intelligence officer told Reuters.

Army officials said the arrests had led to a wider plot of bombings in Mindanao.

They said the suspects admitted links to a senior JI figure, an Indonesian national named Usman or Rizal, who has been conducting training at a rebel camp in the southern region since 1998.

Distressed over the rising body count in one of the country's most heated campaign seasons, the President has ordered the police and military to intensify the crackdown on private armed groups and loose firearms.

Election-related violence has scored more than 80 fatalities since the start of the campaign on Feb. 10.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal has appealed to all candidates in election hot spots to exercise restraint and keep supporters in check, and cautioned ex-military and ex-police officers against playing partisan politics.

A group of 200 former generals led by Gen. Joselin Nazareno held a press conference on Wednesday baring an alleged plot by the President's camp to manipulate the results of the May 10 elections.

Presidential campaign spokesperson Michael Defensor argued that Ms Macapagal had no reason to cheat because she was leading in the surveys. "We are not worried about losing," Defensor said.

The Philippine National Police confirmed yesterday that their top priority for Monday is security.

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao flatly denied presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegation that the police force's marching order is to facilitate cheating nationwide in favor of the President. *Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Christian Esguerra, with a report from Reuters*

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Win one of 3 patrol
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3 NISSAN PATROL

Universal Motors Corporation
Every P300 purchase entitles you to join.
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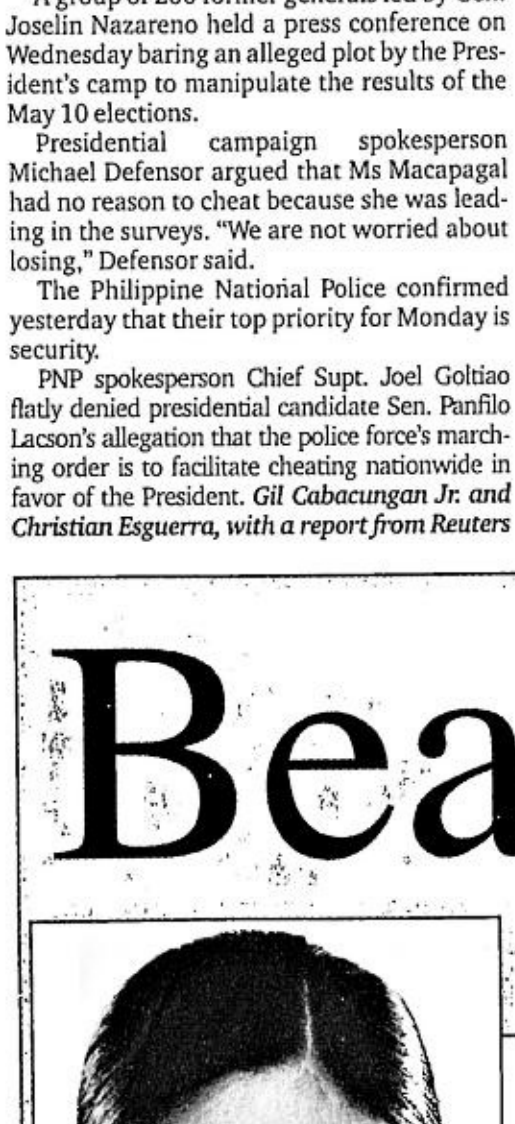
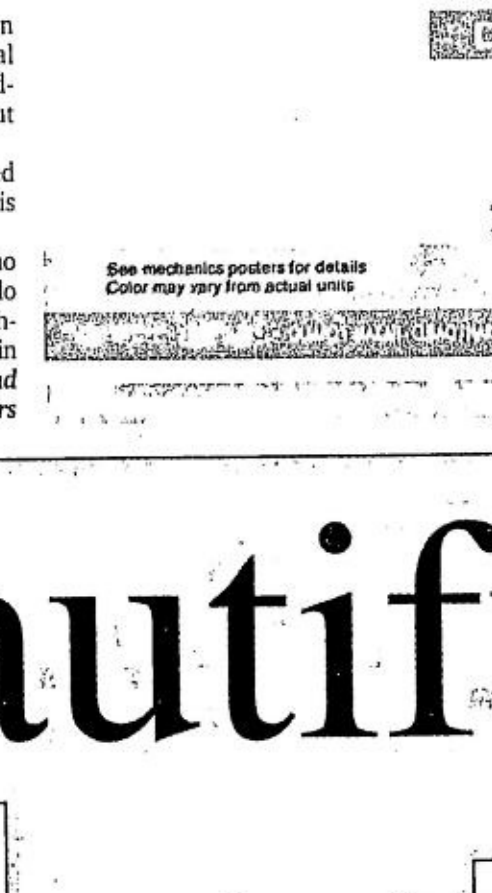
Standard Chartered
Double Your Fun Time Double Your Shopping With
SM ADVANTAGE
Shopping has never been so rewarding!
See mechanics posters for details
Color may vary from actual units
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.5398 Series of 2004

Beautiful Moms
of Facial Care Centre


Patty Betita
Model/Personality Development Training Consultant/ Mother of Emilio, 4
FCC client since 1997


April Marcial-Stewart
Former TV Host/Businesswoman/ Mother of Charlie, 15 & Mikee, 12
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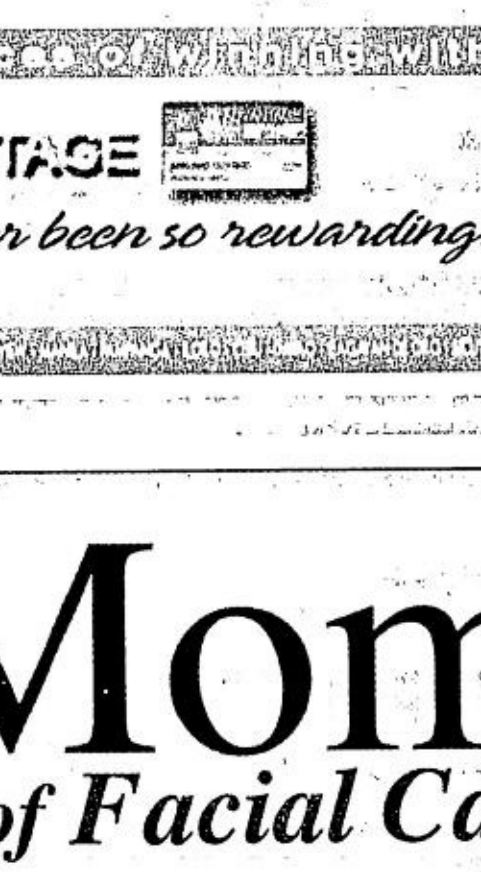
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Money trail leads to local terrorist cell

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He charged that the accusations were intended to malign the opposition and frighten the public into not voting for Poe.

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Gonzales explained that some of their sources for the alleged plot come from the ranks of the opposition who have shifted their loyalty to the administration.

Pressed by newsmen to name other groups supposedly involved in the plot. Gonzales said, "You just have to look at the groups of (former Senator Francisco) Tatad and (Horacio) Boy Morales." He added that Tatad had established a foundation and was allegedly conducting secret meetings. Morales is chair of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino that propelled former President Joseph Estrada to the presidency.

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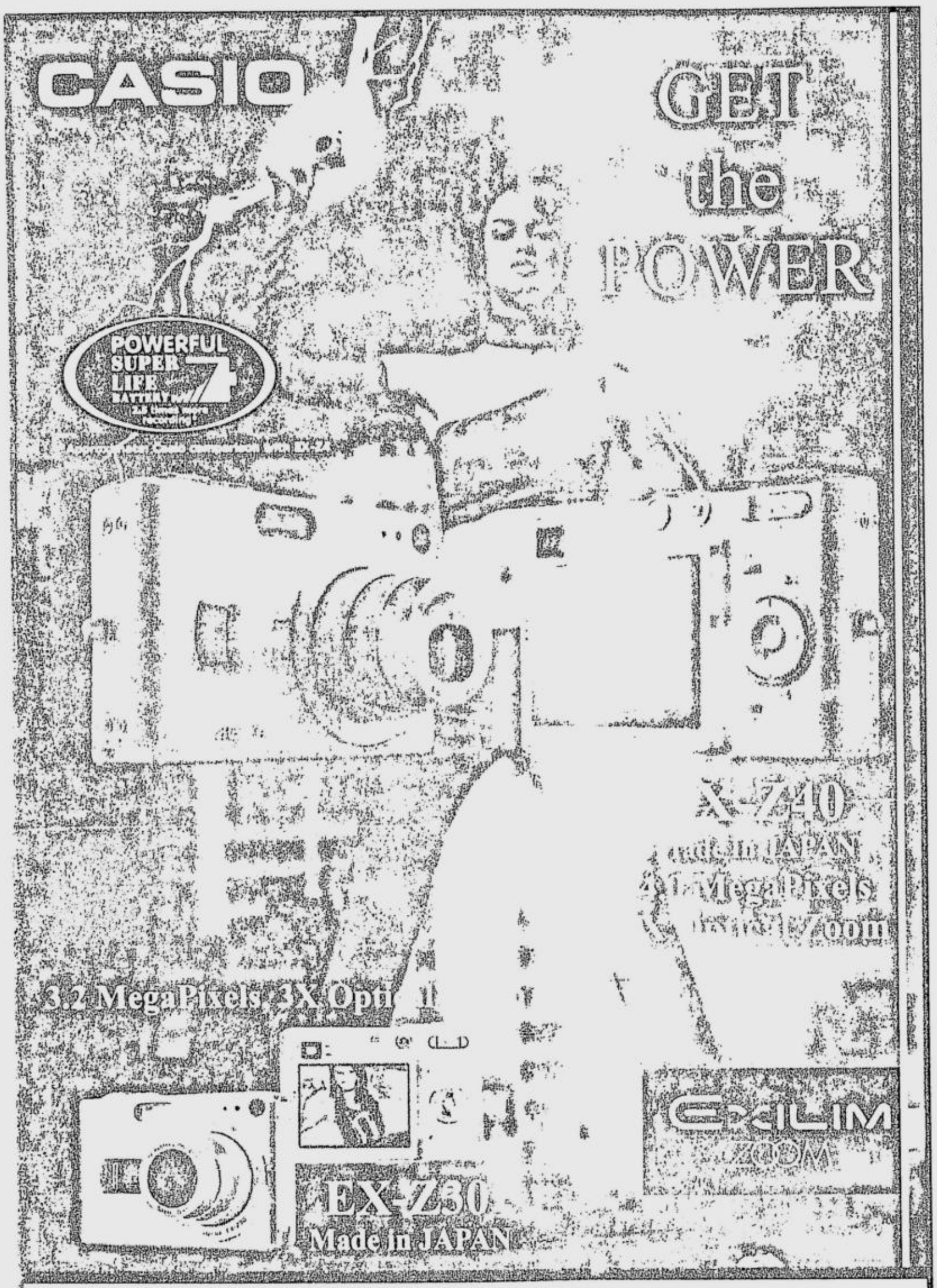

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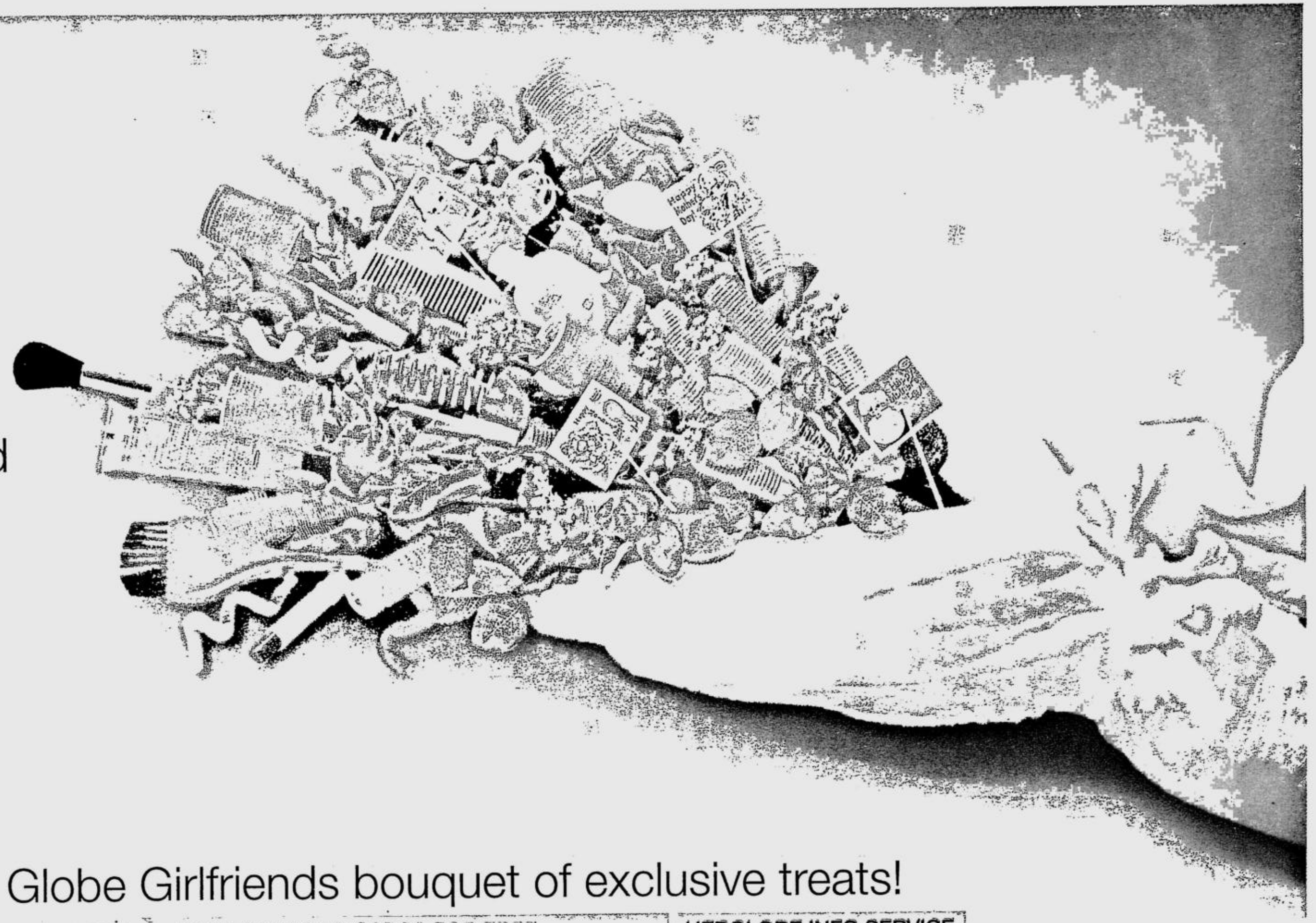

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Power consumers face universal levy under GMA, warns Enrile

POWER consumers should unite and switch off the regime of President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop all excessive electricity rates or face more punishment in next six years in the form of an universal levy slapped on all consumers for all over the country losses incurred in Luzon that are not of their making.

This was the warning issued yesterday by Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino senatorial candidate Juan Ponce Enrile that consumers all over the country would soon be forced to pay the universal charge of 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour provided for by the Electric Power Industry Rehabilitation Act (Epira).

The Epira, which was pushed by President Macapagal, has turned out to be an instrument to legally abuse and exploit all electricity consumers instead of alleviating their problems, Enrile said in a press statement.

Section 33 of the Epira allows distribution utilities like Meralco to pass on their stranded costs to electric consumers nationwide under a universal charge, Enrile said.

Enrile explained that a universal levy is a charge or cost that is applied to all consumers regardless of location, power supplier or distributor. It is an inescapable, lock-in cost that electricity consumers must bear, Enrile said.

Stranded cost is the difference between the true market price of power and the price that a power distributor like Meralco would bill consumers from supply contracts it had signed up with its sister companies.

Enrile said that at present, this universal levy or charge is cleverly hidden and paid for by consumers in their monthly bills as GRAM (Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism) and Elrac (Electricity Long Run Average Cost), which both partly replaced the unpopular PPA.

Monday's a holiday

MALACAÑANG has declared May 10, Election Day, as a special non-working holiday nationwide.

In a statement, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said he signed Proclamation No. 628 to give the people the fullest opportunity to participate in the national and local elections.

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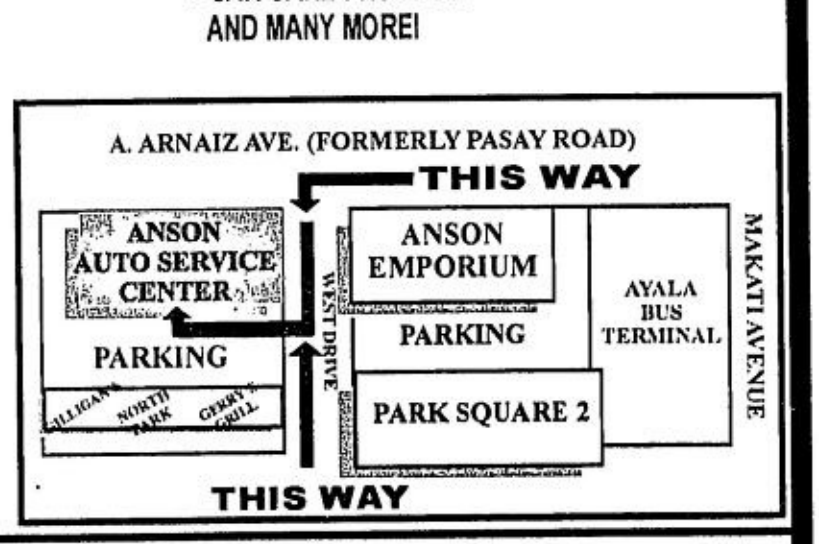

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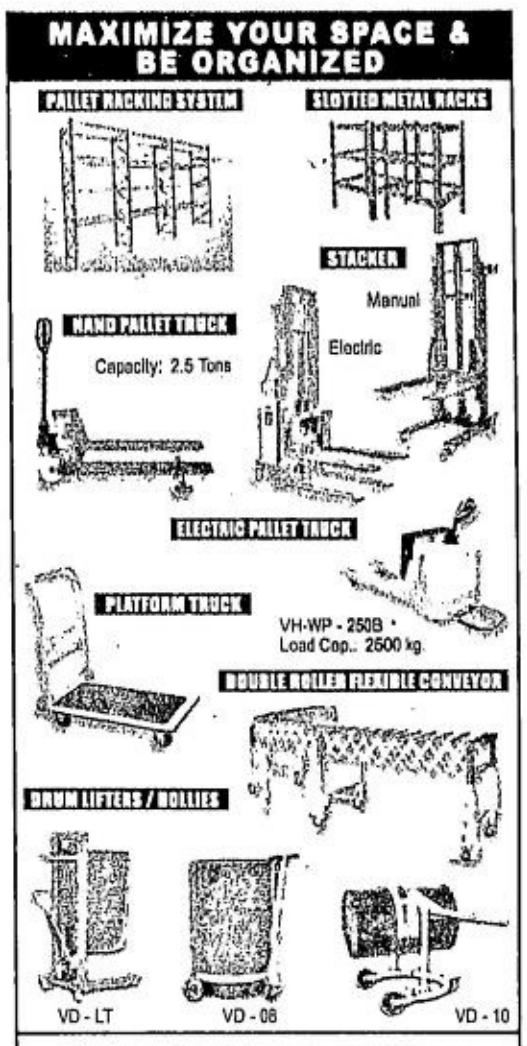

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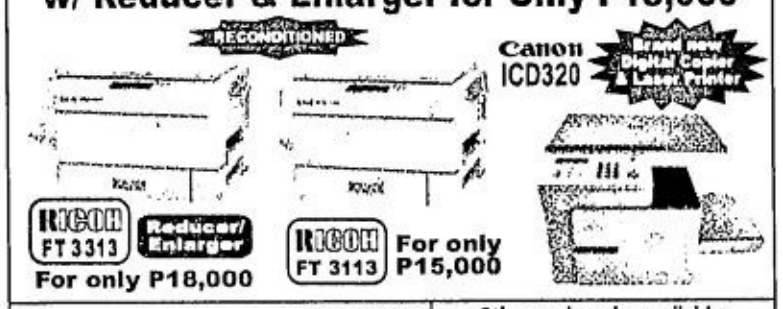

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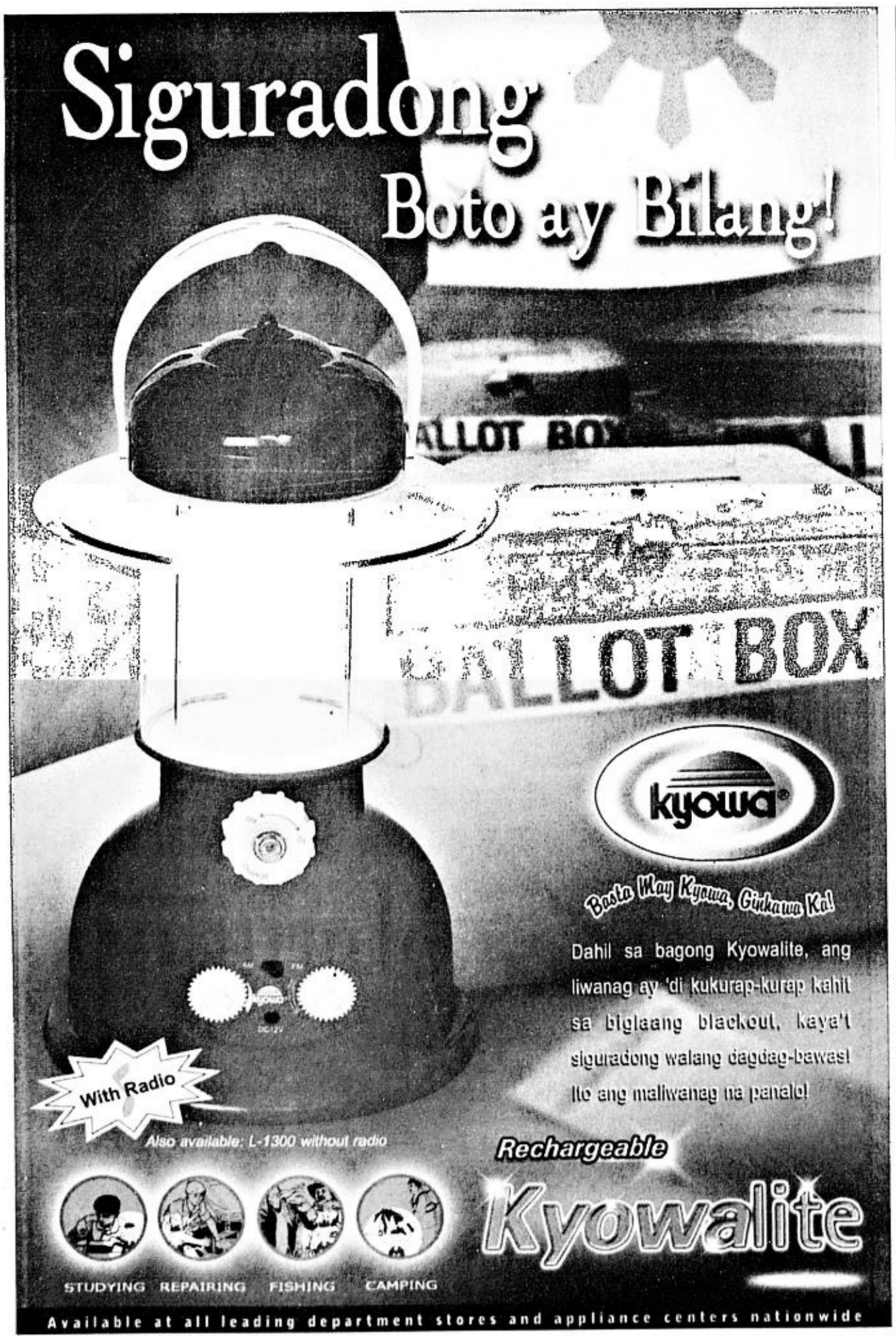

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Maceda, nat'l artist for music, dies; 87

NATIONAL Artist for Music Jose M. Maceda died last Wednesday at his residence at the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City. He was 87 years old.

The eminent composer, musicologist, pianist and teacher succumbed to acute respiratory failure after a lingering illness.

Proclaimed National Artist for Music in 1997, Maceda was cited for his contributions to the promotion of a distinctly Filipino cultural identity through his scholarly studies into the music and culture of the country's indigenous peoples. His works were characterized by a fusion of avant-garde techniques and an Asian philosophical approach to time and music.

The National Artist citation said his experimentations "liberated Filipino musical expression from a strictly Eurocentric mold. He is an unstinting beacon in the formation and reaffirmation of a national ethos that embraces Filipino, as well as Asian, world view."

Maceda is also credited for his contributions to education. Because of his efforts, the study of Philippine instruments has become a part of the curriculum of music schools in the country.

Born on Jan. 31, 1917, Maceda earned a music diploma at the Academy of Music in Manila in 1935 before going on to study piano with Alfred Cortot in Paris in 1937. He returned to the Philippines and began a notable career as a concert pianist.

After further studies in anthropology and ethnomusicology and earning his Ph.D., Maceda shifted from performance to composition, fieldwork and research. He introduced Filipino audiences to the latest techniques and language of music composition.

His major works include "Ugma-Ugma," for native instruments and chorus, "Agungar," for families of gongs, "Kubing" for bamboo instruments and men's voices, "Pagsamba," ritual music for a circular auditorium, and "Udlot-Udlot", for drone, mixed instruments and voices.

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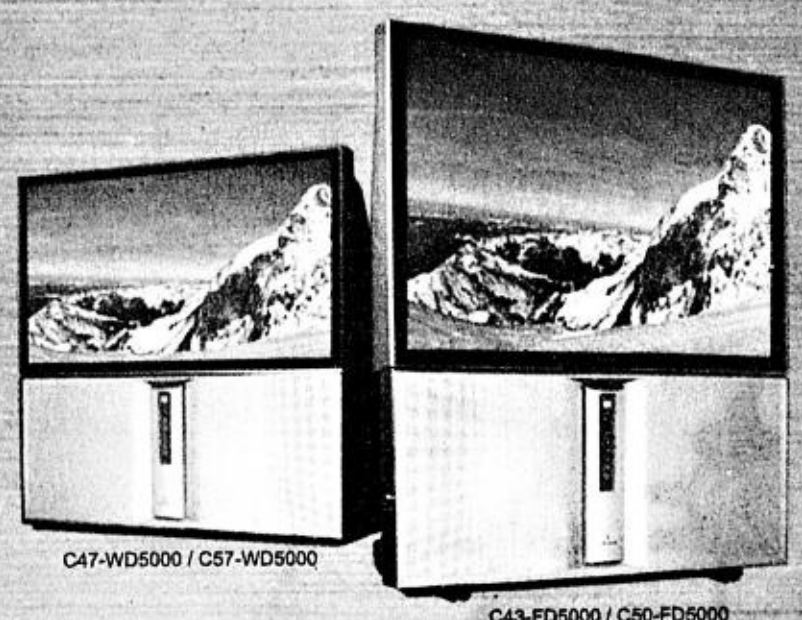

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----- Sen. Joker Arroyo

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----- Former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga

" ***Alvarez*** has served our nation well through many crises. He is a statesman who braved the wrath of the Dictator, who was instrumental in the toppling of Erap, who drew the line many a time for noble causes, risking life, honor, and family, his voice cannot be stifled nor his vision crushed. One thing we must say for Alvarez - he is a man of conviction."

----- National Artist Alejandro R. Roces

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----- Allt. Jose C. Sison

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Bro. Eddie Villanueva answers questions from Catholics.

1. Bro. Eddie is absolutely not for divorce.

"I adhere to the teaching in the Bible that says, "What God has put together, let no man put asunder." I believe in strengthening the family as a basic unit of society. It saddens me that families are separated because of the need to go abroad to seek employment. To say that I am for divorce is like saying that I am for stealing or murder or adultery.

If a bill is passed by Congress to allow divorce, I will veto that bill."

2. Bro. Eddie is for management of family size.

"Educating and informing Filipinos how to manage the size of their families effectively and judiciously is the key.

I will never force or try to convince families to use methods that are contrary to their religion or their beliefs. I will not assume a posture that will put Filipinos in a state of sin. They will be allowed to choose the methods best suited for them and that is in accordance with their belief systems. Their own conscience shall be their guide. What is taught to them by their faith shall be the basis for their decision and not mine.

I am unwaivering in my stand against abortion and any method, substance or agent that may reduce or cause the termination of life within a mother's womb".

3. Bro. Eddie has never attacked the Pope.

"In fact, I have quoted the Pope on many occasions. I respect him as the leader of his flock and would not be so presumptuous as to attack him."

4. The stand of Bro. Eddie on Mother Mary.

"Mary should be a model for all women to follow. During a time when single women who got pregnant were stoned to death, she accepted, without question, the command to be the mother of Jesus Christ. Catholics should not fear any persecution from a man who respects Mary as the mother of Christ and who vows to practice religious freedom in its most liberal sense.

I will not only respect Catholics' right for religious freedom, *I will partner with Catholics in leading this nation.* I intend to appoint top Catholic leaders who have the passion and the qualifications for government service.

This is not an empty campaign promise. Catholic leaders like Fr. Leonardo Polinar, Atty. Luis Sison, Cielito Habito, among others, who support my bid for presidency, are proof that Catholics themselves see that my platform of religious governance is the key for rebirth for this nation.

5. On the matter of administrative competence.

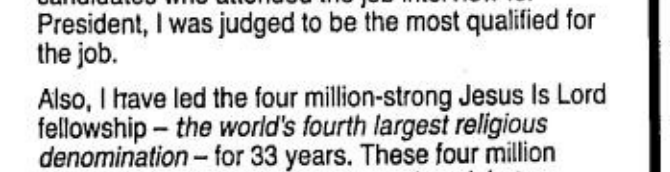
"The Personnel Management Association of the Philippines has answered this question: Among the candidates who attended the job interview for President, I was judged to be the most qualified for the job.

Also, I have led the four million-strong Jesus Is Lord fellowship – *the world's fourth largest religious denomination* – for 33 years. These four million followers are neither paid nor employed, but are volunteers who can only be motivated for their love of God to obey. I have managed this group, without any taint of corruption or scandal. That record speaks for itself."

6. On his health.

"There should be no doubt as to my capacity for work as proven by the campaign itself. I have taken commercial flights, ferries, traveled by land, many times on foot, with only 4-5 hours sleep a day. And yet I go on with as much passion and enthusiasm as the first day because I am overjoyed by the reception that has greeted me everywhere.

In addition, the spirit of the Lord has continuously been my provider of wisdom and strength."



"I have written this statement so all apprehensions, doubts, confusion and fears may be dispelled once and for all.

It is truly my sincerest desire to be yours and God's humble servant leader. I leave my comfort zone and intend to utilize the next six years of my life establishing the beginnings of a moral government that will, hopefully, be the guide for future leaders.

May God bless us all."

BANGON PILIPINAS!

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Baghdad car bomb blast kills 6; Bush condemns US prisoner abuses

BAGHDAD—A suicide bomber killed five Iraqis and an American soldier at an entrance to the US Baghdad headquarters on Thursday, hours after President George W. Bush tried to mend the damage from a prisoner abuse scandal.

The car bomb, which blew one victim's leg 200 meters, also wounded 23 Iraqi civilians and at least three US soldiers at an entry checkpoint to the so-called Green Zone, a US military spokesperson said.

The bomber struck as Iraqis employed by the US-led administration were going to work in the heavily guarded zone which used to be Saddam Hussein's Republican Palace.

"There was a large explosion. There was a huge cloud of dust and everything went black around me," said survivor Shihab Ahmed.

"I saw dead people in the cars around me," he added as he finally struggled out of his damaged car. "Every time we queue in this line, we expect something to happen."

US Col. John Murray said at the scene the three wounded American soldiers were "very seriously" hurt.

Hours earlier, Bush appeared on two Arabic satellite television stations to tell an outraged Middle East that soldiers guilty of abusing Iraqi prisoners would be punished.

"In a democracy everything is not perfect. Mistakes are made. But in a democracy as well those mistakes will be investigated and people will be brought to justice," he told the US-funded Alhurra channel.

"Our citizens in America are appalled by what they saw, just like people in the Middle East are appalled," he told Dubai-based Al-Arabiya. Bush called the abuse "abhorrent."

He did not explicitly apologize for the scandal which erupted after pictures of prisoners being sexually humiliated appeared last week, leaving the public apologies to top aides.

A week after pictures were published of grinning US soldiers abusing naked Iraqis at Abu Ghraib prison, Iraq's largest prison and notorious under Saddam for torture, the US Army revealed that 25 prisoners had died in Iraq and Afghanistan in US custody.

They included two Iraqis murdered by Americans, one death described as justifiable homicide, and 12 deaths by natural or undetermined causes. Ten were still being investigated.

The CIA said it was investigating the deaths of three prisoners interrogated by its personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan but did not say if these were among the 25 reported by the Army.

At Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad, where nearly 4,000 Iraqis are held, hundreds demonstrated outside the heavily guarded walls demanding the release of relatives on Wednesday.

Some vowed vengeance.

At a Baghdad coffee shop, where men gathered to watch Bush on television, Abdul-Kader Abdul-Rahim said he doubted any US investigation into the abuse would change conditions in Iraq. *Reuters*

IRAQ firefighters attempt to extinguish burning vehicles following a suicide bombing near a checkpoint to the main complex housing US administrative offices in central Baghdad, Iraq, May 6. AP

200 Nigeria Muslims die in Christian attack

KANO, Nigeria—More than 200 Muslims are dead and 120 missing after Christian militia attacked a central Nigerian town, one of Nigeria's most senior Islamic leaders said Wednesday, branding the assault "mass murder."

Abdulkadir Orire, secretary general of Nigeria's main Muslim representative body the Jama'atu Nasril Islam, warned that if the violence was not halted it could trigger similar ethnic or sectarian clashes elsewhere.

"Between 200 and 250 people were killed in the violence, while many have disappeared," he said in a telephone interview.

State governors from Nigeria's Muslim-dominated northern regions Tuesday began an emergency meeting over the unrest, state-run Radio Nigeria Kaduna reported.

The police said that they have recovered 67 corpses from the scene of the clashes which began late Sunday.

The radio, monitored here, did not give further details on the governors' talks.

"Those who disappeared cannot be accounted for, nobody knows if they are dead or in hiding. 120 people, including women and children, are missing," Orire said, citing refugees fleeing the flashpoint region.

"There are difficulties in getting exact figures because the situation is still tense, and it will take time to account for the exact number of dead and missing. It's mass murder, because machine guns were used, not machetes."

Late on Sunday, heavily armed militants from the Christian Tarok ethnic group stormed Yelwa, a farming community in the Shendam local government area of central Nigeria's Plateau State, 300 km east of Abuja. *AFP*

Georgia's 2nd bloodless revolt: Rebel leader flees

BATUMI, Georgia—The leader of Georgia's renegade Adjara region resigned and flew out of his Black Sea province bound for exile in Moscow early Thursday in the second bloodless revolution to sweep the former Soviet republic in six months.

It had been feared that the standoff between Adjara's leader Aslan Abashidze and the Georgian government could trigger a civil war, but in the end he left quietly and ordered his paramilitaries to lay down their arms.

"Aslan has run away. Adjara is free," said a beaming Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili in the capital, Tbilisi, in a live television address. "A new era has begun in Georgia's history."

Abashidze, a white-haired former Communist official who had run Adjara for more than a decade, was the last bastion of the old regime of ex-president Eduard Shevardnadze which had been swept away in last year's "rose revolution."

Immediately his departure was announced, a crowd of several thousand anti-Abashidze protesters who had been keeping a vigil in Adjara's capital, Batumi, for the past two days, started celebrating deliriously.

In scenes which echoed last year's revolution in the capital Tbilisi, the demonstrators brandished rose stems, and chanted "Misha!, Misha!"—the affectionate nickname for the Georgian president.

"We knew this would happen sooner or later but now that it has we can hardly believe it," said one demonstrator, who gave his name as Tengo.

Some of the crowd poured into Abashidze's residence and emerged carrying trophies including drinking glasses and documents from their former leader's office.

Abashidze's widely feared security forces, who had helped him stay in power by suppressing dissent, began filing into their barracks to hand in their weapons.

"Everyone is giving in their guns," said Gocha, a member of Abashidze's elite guard unit. "It was his last instruction before he left."

Meanwhile, Saakashvili ordered his security forces to fill the vacuum left by the collapse of Abashidze's rule and to prevent looting and violence while order was re-established.

His officials said he himself would be arriving in Adjara later Thursday "to congratulate the Adjaran people."

After days during which Abashidze said he would not be forced out in the face of growing pressure, his end came swiftly.

Following three hours of talks between the Adjaran leader and Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania at his office, Abashidze left through a back entrance and drove at top speed to Batumi's airport.

Accompanied by Igor Ivanov, Russia's Security Council Secretary who had flown in to act as an intermediary, Abashidze boarded a waiting jet without saying a word and took off to Moscow.

He left behind him on the tarmac about 150 of his bodyguards, some of whom wept as they bid farewell to their boss. *AFP*

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"There was a large explosion. There was a huge cloud of dust and everything went black around me," said survivor Shihab Ahmed.

"I saw dead people, the cars around me," he added. He finally struggled out of his damaged car. "Every time we queue at this area we expect something to happen."

US Col. John Murray said at the scene the three wounded American soldiers were "very seriously" hurt.

Hours earlier, Bush appeared on two Arabic satellite television stations to tell an outraged Middle East that soldiers guilty of abusing Iraqi prisoners would be punished.

"In a democracy everything is not perfect. Mistakes are made. But in a democracy as well those mistakes will be investigated and people will be brought to justice," he told the US-funded Alhurra channel.

"Our citizens in America are appalled by what they saw, just like people in the Middle East are appalled," he told Dubai-based Al-Arabiya. Bush called the abuse "abhorrent."

He did not explicitly apologize for the scandal which erupted after pictures of prisoners being sexually humiliated appeared last week, saying the public apology was to top aide.

A week after pictures were published of grinning US soldiers abusing naked Iraqis at Abu Ghraib prison, Iraq's largest prison and notorious under Saddam for torture, the US Army revealed that 25 prisoners had died in Iraq and Afghanistan in US custody.

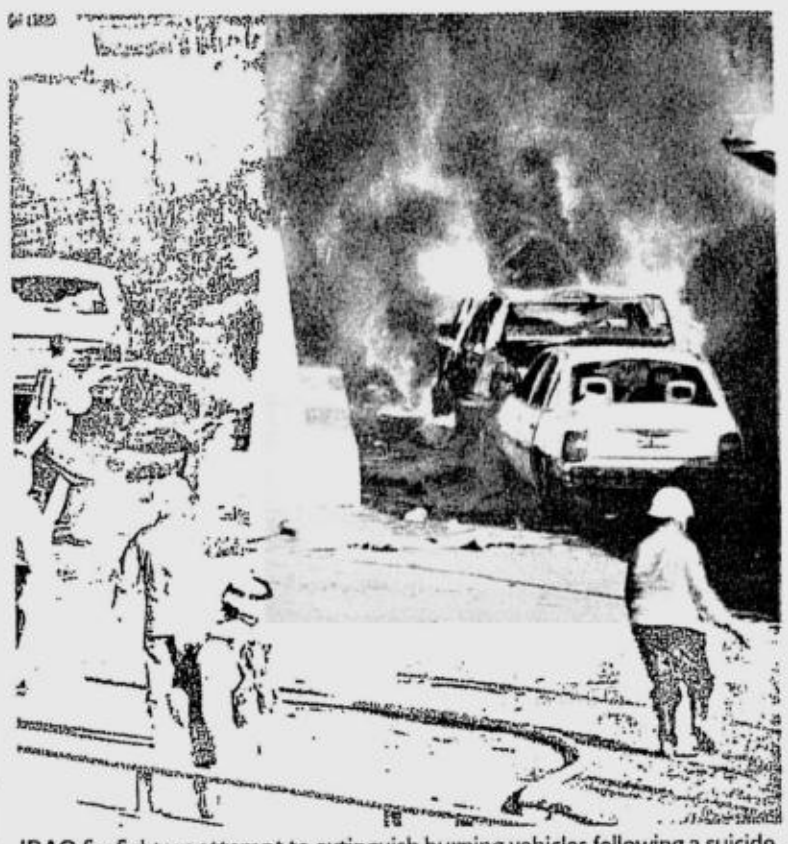
They included two Iraqis murdered by Americans, one death described as justifiable homicide, and 12 deaths by natural or undetermined causes. Ten were still being investigated.

The CIA said it was investigating the deaths of three prisoners interrogated by its personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan but did not say if these were among the 25 reported by the Army.

At Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad, where nearly 4,000 Iraqis are held, hundreds demonstrated outside the heavily guarded walls demanding the release of relatives on Wednesday.

Some vowed vengeance.

At a Baghdad coffee shop, where men gathered to watch Bush on television, Abdul-Kader Abdul-Rahim said he doubted any US investigation into the abuse would change conditions in Iraq. *Reuters*



IRAQ firefighters attempt to extinguish burning vehicles following a suicide bombing near a checkpoint to the main complex housing US administrative offices in central Baghdad, Iraq, May 6. AP

200 Nigeria Muslims die in Christian attack

KANO, Nigeria—More than 200 Muslims are dead and 120 missing after Christian militia attacked a central Nigerian town, one of Nigeria's most senior Islamic leaders said Wednesday, branding the assault "mass murder."

Abdulkadir Orire, secretary general of Nigeria's main Muslim representative body the Jama'atu Nasril Islam, warned that if the violence was not halted it could trigger similar ethnic or sectarian clashes elsewhere.

"Between 200 and 250 people were killed in the violence, while many have disappeared," he said in a telephone interview.

State governors from Nigeria's Muslim-dominated northern regions Tuesday began an emergency meeting over the unrest, state-run Radio Nigeria Kaduna reported.

The police said that they have recovered 67 corpses from the scene of the clashes which began late Sunday.

The radio, monitored here, did not give further details of the governors' talks.

"Those who disappeared cannot be accounted for, nobody knows if they are dead or in hiding. 120 people, including women and children are missing," Orire said, citing refugees fleeing the flashpoint region.

"There are difficulties getting exact figures because the situation still tense, and take time to account for the number of dead and the mass murder because guns were used, not machetes."

Late on Sunday, heavily militants from the Tarok ethnic group stormed a farming community Shendam local government of central Nigeria's Plateau 300 km east of Abuja. *AFP*

Georgia's 2nd bloodless revolt: Rebel leader flees

BATUMI, Georgia—The Georgia's renegade Adjara region resigned and flew out of his Black Sea province bound for exile in Moscow early Thursday in the second bloodless revolution to sweep the former Soviet republic in six months.

It had been feared that the standoff between Adjara's leader Aslan Abashidze and the Georgian government could trigger a civil war, but in the end he left quietly and ordered his paramilitaries to lay down their arms.

"Aslan has run away. Adjara is free," said a beaming Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili in the capital, Tbilisi, in a live television address. "A new era has begun in Georgia's history."

Abashidze, a white-haired former Communist official who had run Adjara for more than a decade, was the last bastion of the old regime of ex-president Eduard Shevardnadze which had been swept away in last year's "rose revolution."

Immediately his departure was announced, a crowd of several thousand anti-Abashidze protesters who had been keeping a vigil in Adjara's capital, Batumi, for the past two days, started celebrating deliriously.

In scenes which echoed last year's revolution in the capital Tbilisi, the demonstrators brandished rose stems, and chanted "Misha!, Misha!"—the affectionate nickname for the Georgian president.

"We knew this would happen sooner or later but now that it has we can hardly believe it," said one demonstrator, who gave his name as Tengo.

Some of the crowd poured into Abashidze's residence and emerged carrying trophies including drinking glasses and documents from their former leader's office.

Abashidze's widely feared security forces, who had helped him stay in power by suppressing dissent, began filing into their barracks to hand in their weapons.

"Everyone is giving up their guns," said Gocha, a member of Abashidze's elite guard unit. "It was his last instruction before he left."

Meanwhile Saakashvili ordered his security forces to fill the vacuum left by the collapse of Abashidze's rule and to prevent looting and violence while order was re-established.

His officials said he himself would be arriving in Adjara later Thursday to congratulate the Adjaran people.

After days during which Abashidze said he would not be forced out in the face of growing pressure, his end came swiftly.

Following three hours of talks between the Adjaran leader and Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania at his office, Abashidze left through a back entrance and drove at top speed to Batumi's airport.

Accompanied by Igor Ivanov, Russia's Security Council Secretary who had flown in to act as an intermediary, Abashidze boarded a waiting jet without saying a word and took off to Moscow.

He left behind him on the tarmac about 150 of his bodyguards some of whom wept as they bid farewell to their boss. *AFP*

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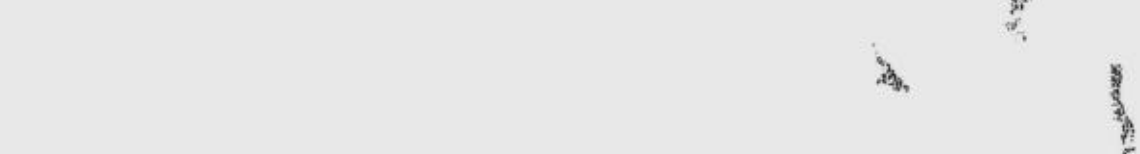

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"PAGCOR bought over 100 new vehicles worth over P120 million."	From 2001 to February 2004, PAGCOR may have bought that many vehicles. **BUT this includes fleet replacement of service vehicles AND cars bought under the company's Executive Car Plan program paid for by the executives themselves under an easy-pay amortization plan using its Provident Fund!** (It is patently misleading if not outright lying to lump all vehicle purchases together and make it look like a wholesale car acquisition.)
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"PAGCOR has violated its Charter by entering into joint ventures with private investors in the operation of slot machine arcades."	The PAGCOR Charter (PD 1869) prohibits the corporation from granting franchises to outside parties. PAGCOR has entered into lease contracts, not joint ventures, with lessors in the operation of exclusive, Casino Filipino VIP Clubs.
"The 60-40 income sharing agreement with private investors is disadvantageous to the government because 40 percent provided to the lessor is excessive. The cost of new slot machines and lease improvements can be recovered in full within three years."	**This lease arrangement is purely a business decision. It is risk-free for the government because PAGCOR does not shell out a single centavo. Furthermore, all lease contracts have an exit clause in case a court of law finds the agreement disadvantageous to the government.** The 38 percent (net of franchise tax) payment is for the lease of a complete, fully-furnished, fully-equipped, fitted-out Casino Filipino VIP Club. All capital expenditures – construction, furnishing and maintenance of the facility as well as the procurement of high-tech computerized gaming machines – are shouldered by the lessors. Slot machines cost about US$10,000 to $12,000 each and quickly become obsolete in less than a year. These state-of-the-art machines utilize a "tokenless" card-based system, and are connected through an integrated network. This agreement is in line with advisories stated in the 2002 General Appropriations Act which enjoins all government agencies to lease IT and IT-linked equipment in line with the existing policy to scale down expenditures.
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It's a ho-hum campaign in far-flung Batanes

By Juliet Cataluna
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BASCO, Batanes—Election campaigns in Batanes through the years are always conducted in a most civilized way and this year's elections are no different.

Almost all Ivatans (Batanes natives) enjoy election campaigns, which some believe are games that only intelligent people can play.

During campaign rallies, candidates bring out political issues almost repetitively so that most voters prefer to stay home and watch telenovelas on television.

In previous elections, the electoral campaign of some rival politicians in the province involved mudslinging and character assassination.

This year, however, the campaign is subdued as Ivatan politicians and their supporters learned to respect each other's political convictions.

In fact, some rival candidates go to villages together to campaign.

As in previous years, Evelyn Abad, Commission on Elections supervisor in the province, said they are expecting the province to submit the results ahead of other provinces because Batanes has only 8,775 registered voters.

The most closely watched contest here is between Henedina Abad and former Gov. Telesforo Castillejos for the province's lone congressional district seat.

Abad, wife of outgoing Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, is running under the Liberal Party-Lakas-CMD-K4 coalition, while Castillejos is allied with the opposition's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

Gov. Vicente Gato is running for reelection against Gerry Caccam, a former official of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority of the Department of Agriculture.

Local political observers said the fight between Abad, who vowed to continue the projects of her husband, and Castillejos seems to polarize Ivatans.

Castillejos has assailed Abad, a native of Lubao, Pampanga, for not being a "homegrown" Ivatan.

Ballot boxes in ice plant raise suspicions of fraud

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The ballot boxes that were reported missing in Casiguran, Aurora, were found inside an ice plant there on Wednesday, reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed.

Mayor Jeremias Estevez, reached by phone on Thursday, said the 57 ballot boxes, not 65 as the police had reported, were not illegally transferred to commit electoral fraud.

That suspicion, he said, came from candidates of the administration party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats in Aurora.

Estevez, a candidate running for reelection under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, said the Commission on Elections, the municipal treasurer and representatives of the LDP and Lakas-CMD on April 26 approved a resolution allowing the ballot boxes to be taken to the ice plant for cleaning. He said they also agreed to burn the used ballots inside the boxes.

"They all agreed to bring the ballot boxes to the ice plant. The municipal government owns (the ice plant) and it is also near the river. The boxes had to be cleaned because they were filled with mud after last year's floods," the mayor told the INQUIRER.

"*Wala kaming intensyon na mandaya* (We have no intention to cheat)," Estevez said.

He said the ballot boxes were intended for the 52 precincts in Casiguran, some 130 km north of Baler, the capital town. Casiguran, which has 11,500 registered voters, uses 67 ballot boxes, he said.

Former Aurora Gov. Edgardo Ong, who is running for governor under Lakas-CMD, said his supporters asked the police to look for the supposedly missing ballot boxes.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, said municipal treasurer Herminigildo Mijares admitted that he ordered the ballot boxes cleaned at the Casiguran River since April 26.

These were reportedly kept at the ice plant for drying, Querol said, quoting the radio messages received from Senior Insp. Mauricio Lazatin, the town police chief.

Querol said Mijares is being investigated for the act, which was not known to Comelec Aurora election supervisor Reynaldo Agabao.

Mijares, according to Querol, had insisted that it was the treasurer who had custody over the ballot boxes. These were reportedly empty when the police found them at the plant.

"Casiguran is now under tight watch," Querol said, warning that the police would not tolerate or participate in any electoral fraud. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cops say Boracay slay victims attacked during sleep

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—The three foreigners and a Filipino found dead on this island were most likely attacked while they were sleeping before their killers took off with at least 30 personal items including cash, mobile phones and a digital camera.

This was the result of the initial police investigation released by Chief Supt. George Alino, police director for Western Visayas in a news conference yesterday with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Alino said they were firming up evidence against the nine construction workers in their custody before filing charges in court.

The President was here yesterday morning to check on the investigation of the case and to assure the safety of tourists.

"This is an isolated case" which, the President said, is "no reason for tourists not to come to Boracay."

Ms Macapagal met with Alino, Supt. Remus Zachairas Canieso, chief of the Boracay Special Protection Unit (BSPU), Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Aklan Rep. Gabrielle Calizo.

After the 45-minute meeting at the Balabag Barangay Hall, the President said she ordered the police to expedite the resolution of the "gruesome crime."

She, however, admitted that she was satisfied with the performance of the police in the investigation.

German Anton Faustenhauser, 69 was found dead inside his room on the second floor of his three story-mansion called Dolce Vita, which sits on top of Mt. Luho at Sitio Bulabog, Barangay Balabag.

Also found dead were his guests Swiss Manfred Schoeni, Briton John Cowperthwait and Filipino maid Erma Sarmiento. The victims bore bore multiple stabbed wounds.

Alino said their investigation showed that the victims were probably attacked while they were sleeping between 10:27 p.m. Saturday, when Faustenhauser last talked to a family member over the phone, and Sunday morning.

Faustenhauser was still in his sleeping clothes when he was found dead.

Sarmiento was killed first with a bread knife because the opening of her wounds were smaller compared to that of the other victims, said Alino.

Party-list groups to sue Gonzales for slays, attacks

BAGUIO CITY—The Bayan Muna party-list group and four other parties are preparing new charges against National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales before the Commission on Elections, this time for the impact of his "red-baiting tag" on their campaign, a Bayan Muna nominee said.

Beverly Longid, also lead convenor of the Cordilleras Human Rights Organization, said they believe Gonzales is an accessory to the recent murders of Bayan Muna members, which occurred after Gonzales accused the group of helping communist rebels.

She said Gonzales' statements linking Bayan Muna, Gabriela, Migrante, Anakpawis, Anak ng Bayan and Suara Bangsamoro to the New People's Army triggered the attacks on Bayan Muna members, like Councilor Rogelio Perez (not Cortes as earlier reported) of Pagbilao, Quezon.

Perez, a Bayan Muna campaigner, and his wife, Cristina, were ambushed on April 30 after they left a campaign rally of the town's reelectionist mayor. Perez was killed while Cristina was wounded.

But Longid said Bayan Muna would need to build a tighter case about Gonzales' link to the murders because their witnesses must establish a government connection to the murders.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo earlier sued Gonzales for libel due to his statements that accused Bayan Muna of using its pork barrel funds to benefit the NPA.

On Wednesday, Ocampo complained to Comelec that the military was behind the harassment which Bayan Muna and the five party-list groups had suffered in the course of their campaign.

Longid said they had obtained documents and affidavits from Ifugao that accused soldiers of stopping Bayan Muna members from posting campaign materials on designated campaign areas in March. She said they had also documented cases where soldiers destroyed Bayan Muna materials.

Lt. Col. Preme Monta, spokesperson of the AFP Northern Luzon Command, said Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Nolcom chief, did not order these soldiers to stop the activities of Bayan Muna.

Dominguez, according to Monta, had reiterated the military's impartiality in this year's elections.

Longid said Bayan Muna members, on May 10, would perform election-monitoring duties in teams for their own protection. *Vincent Cabreza with a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

HOOK UP BING GONZALES-PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A security personnel of the Sangguniang Panglunsod in Davao City passes by a row of satellite dishes that were to be used to transmit results of the May 10 elections until the Supreme Court stopped it.

Central Luzon towns declared poll hot spots

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Sta. Rosa and Muñoz in Nueva Ecija, Baliuag and Bustos in Bulacan and Dingalan in Aurora have been identified as election areas of immediate concern in Central Luzon, the police said here on Tuesday.

The five towns qualified as hot spots as 30 percent of their villages are affected by the presence of communist rebels.

These areas have a history of long-running feuds or intense political rivalry aided by partisan armed groups, and previous election-related violence had occurred there.

Baliuag and Bustos were only recently listed. These happened after tension broke out there on Monday when the supporters of political candidates staged protests against the implementation of a court-ordered suspension of incumbent officials, according to Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director.

At least 51 out of Central Luzon's 130 towns and cities where political rivalries thrive and 17 others where two communist armed groups operate will continue to be under strict watch on election day, May 10, to avert violence, Querol said.

Tension up between bets for governor

ISABELA CITY—The rising tension between Gov. Wahab Akbar and his rival, Jim Hataman Salliman, nearly went out of hand here on Wednesday.

Akbar said bloodshed nearly broke out between his camp and that of his rival when Salliman's followers harassed him and his wife, Cherry.

He said they were on their way home from Barangay Kulay Bato around 9 p.m. when he decided to drop by Quezon Boulevard upon seeing "many people."

"I decided to approach them," Akbar said.

He said at this instance, at least seven bodyguards of Salliman's came from nowhere and started poking their firearms at his convoy.

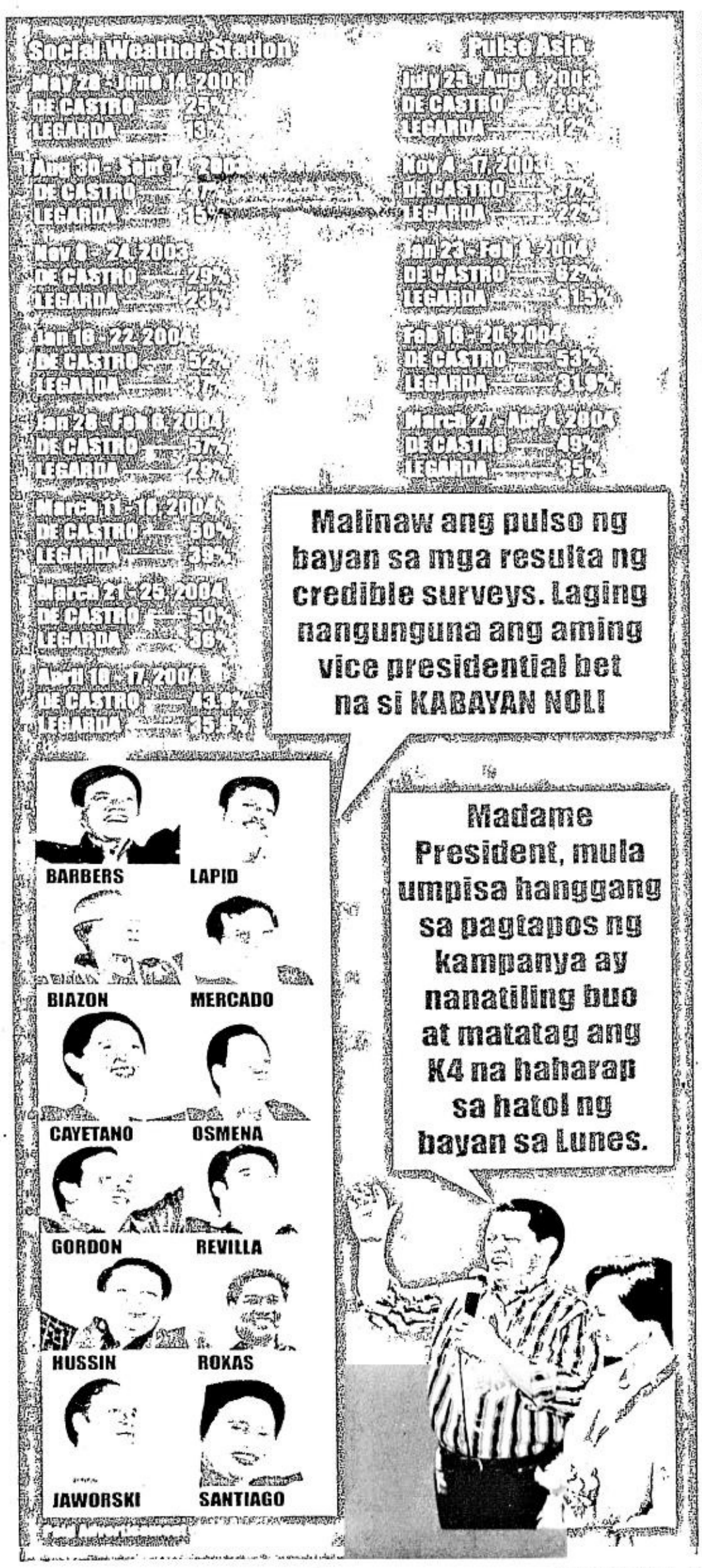
"When I alighted from our vehicle, the seven armed men are already on trigger-ready positions. My wife Cherry went on panic, became hysterical, until now she is still traumatized by the incident," Akbar said.

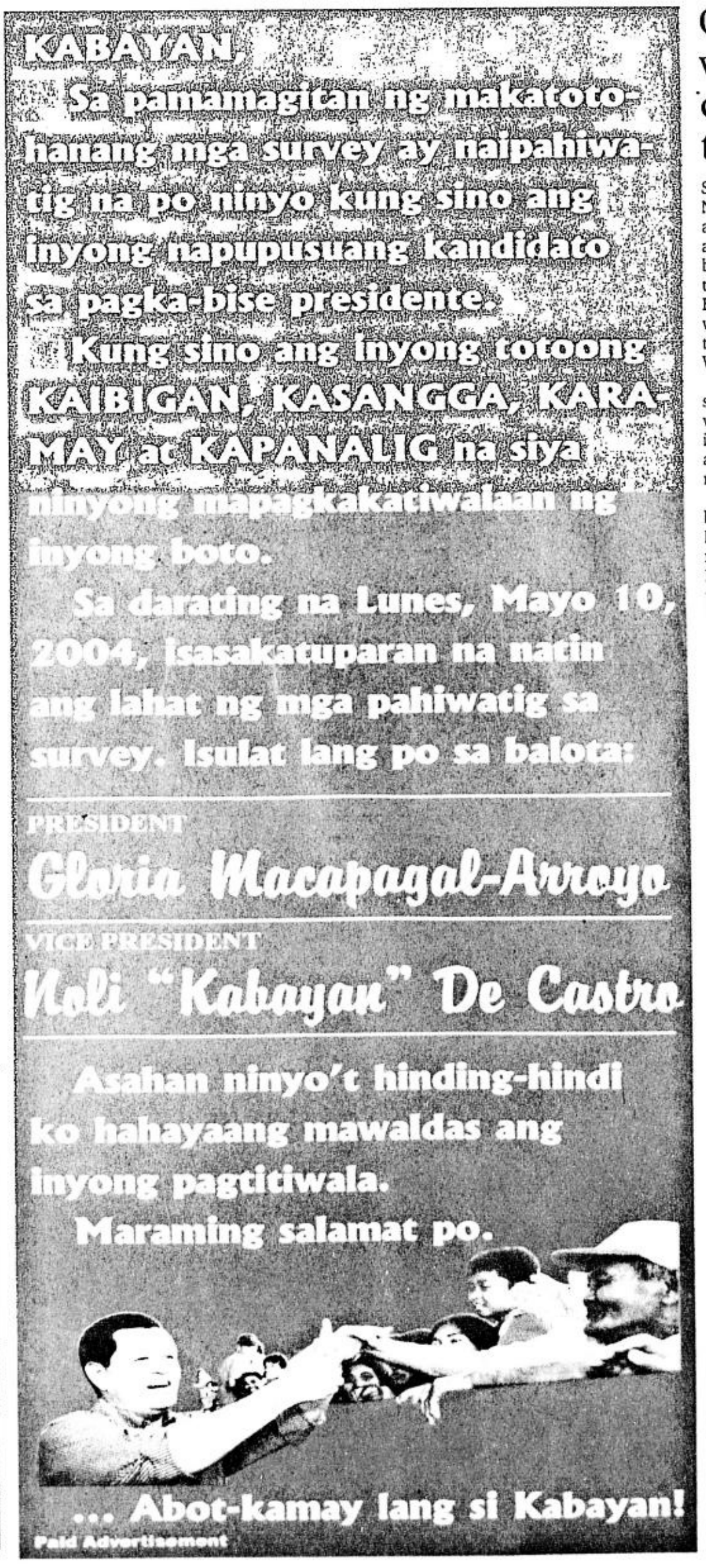
He said his bodyguards also reacted sharply.

Akbar said he prevented bloodshed by telling his escorts to "cool down."

Salliman said the people Akbar was telling about were the same crowd in the political rally he was then holding on Quezon Boulevard.

"He was the one who initiated the action, it was harassment against us. He already knew that we were having our rally on that road," Salliman said. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*





Campaign violence cases on the rise

SAN NICOLAS, Ilocos Norte—A policewoman was hurt after five armed men, believed to be supporters of reelectionist Mayor Manuel Hernando, shot it out with local police near the mayor's house on Wednesday night.

PO1 Alice Vicente suffered a bullet wound in the leg during the gunfight at about 9 p.m. Wednesday.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Hernando for comment. But Rommel Madamba, Hernando's private secretary, said Hernando was not employing armed men.

"The mayor travels by himself when he goes out of his house. It is not possible that (the armed men) are his supporters," Madamba said.

In Pangasinan, the reelectionist mayors of Alcala and Villasis reported receiving death threats recently.

Mayor Juanito Collado of Alcala said he received a blood-stained barong Tagalog, a white candle tied with a black ribbon and a live bullet in his house on Thursday.

In Pampanga, two supporters of Masantol Mayor Corazon Lacap were beaten up by the campaign leaders of her rival, Dr. Peter Flores, on Tuesday night, police said.

Senior Insp. Remigio Layug, Masantol police chief, identified the victims as Danilo Viray and Proceso Fabian.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, said the two men were beaten up by barangay captain Gan Flores, a relative of Flores. *Cristina Arzadon and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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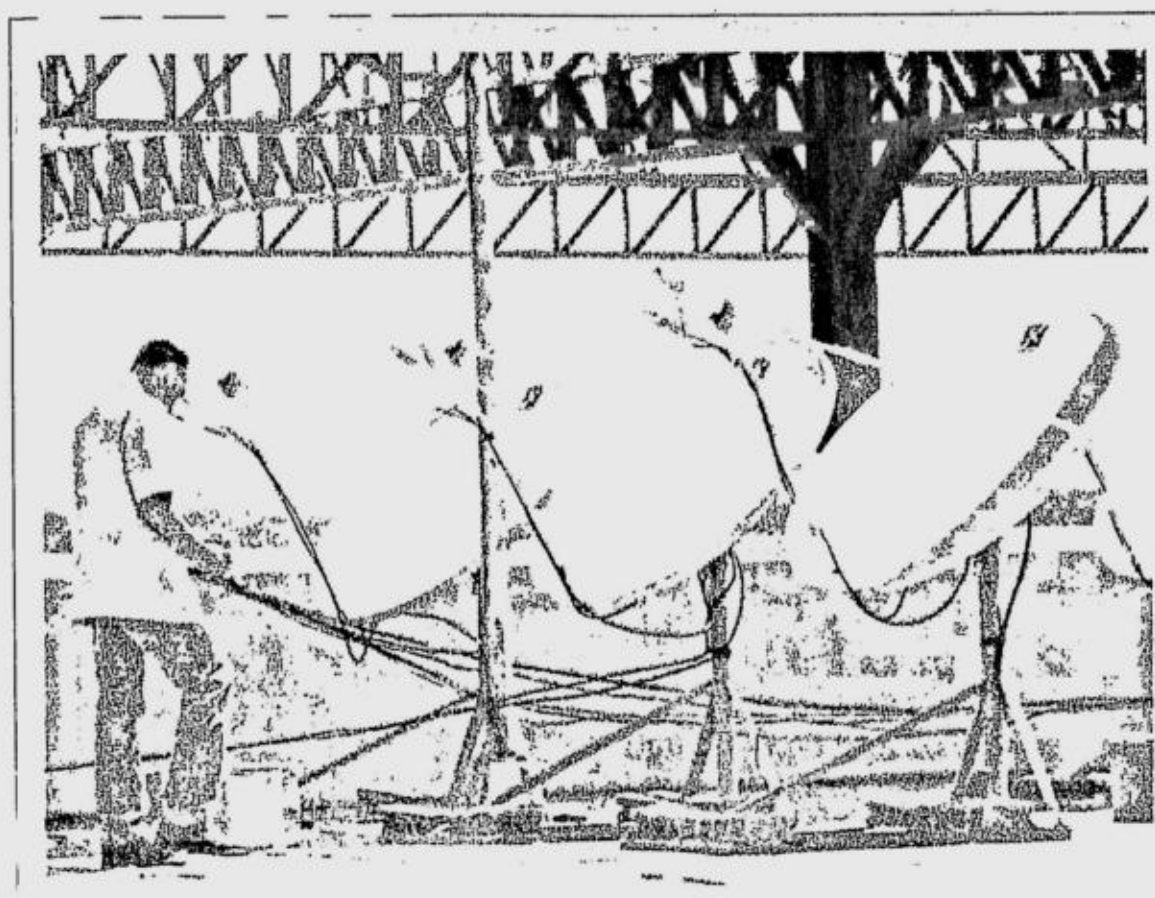

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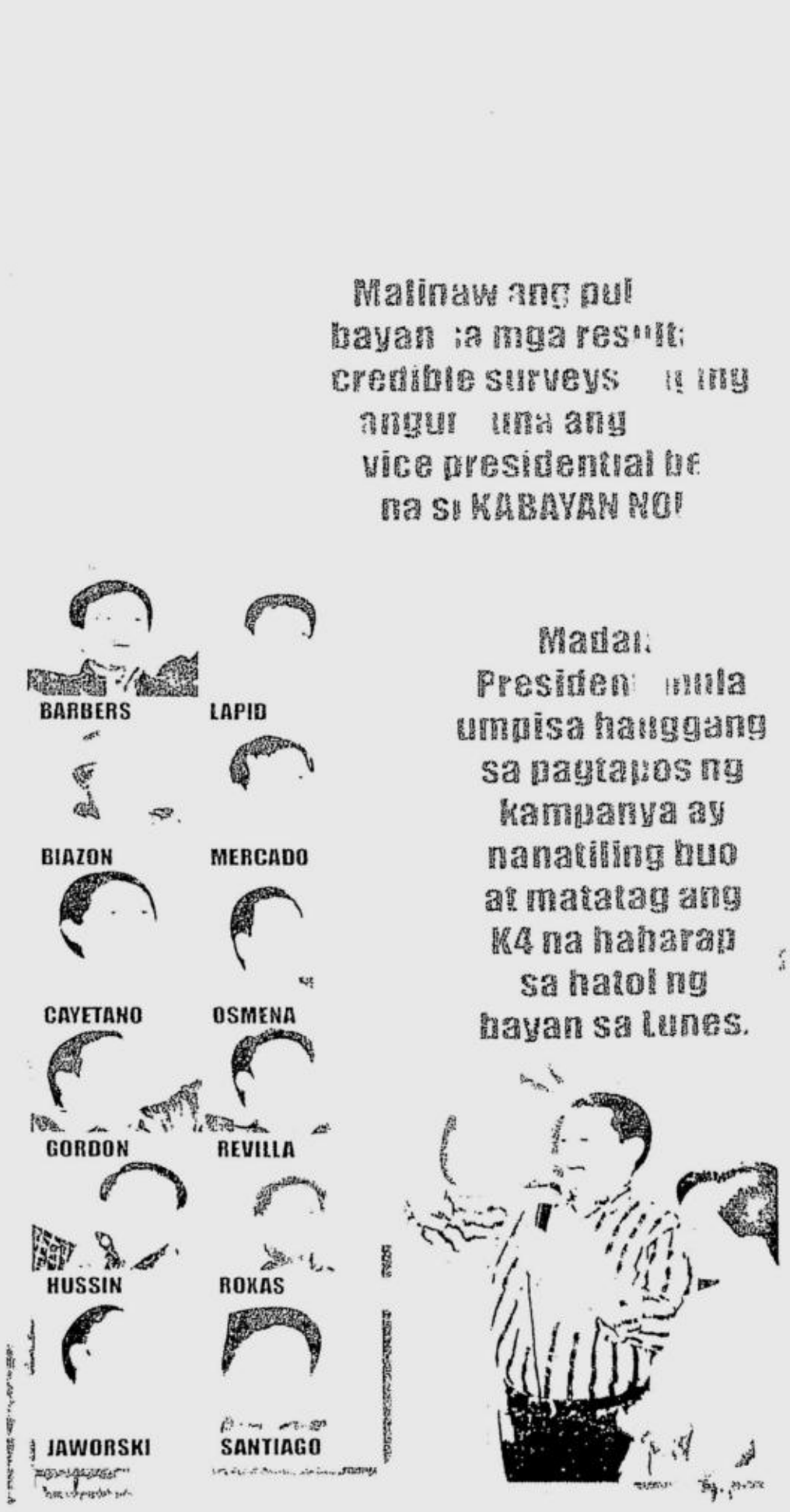

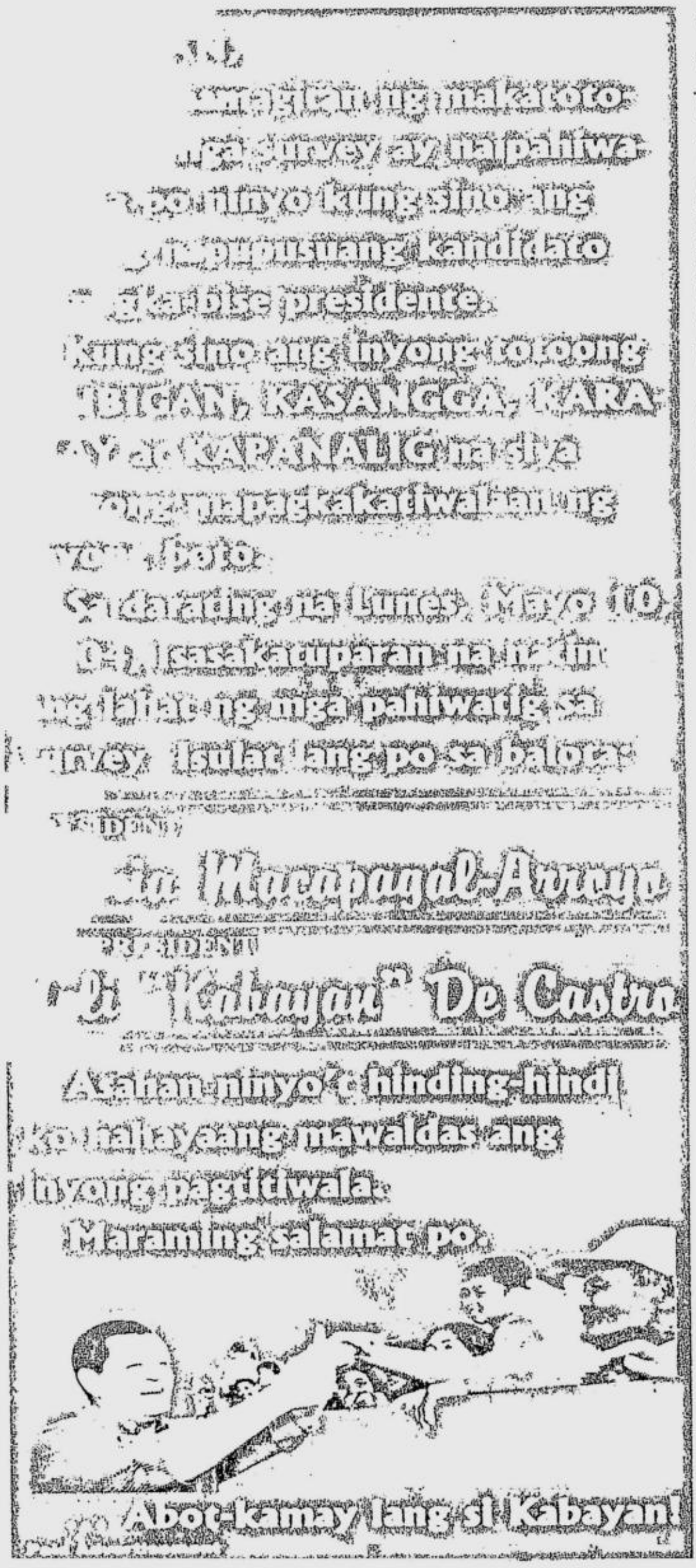

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₱23-B Panay rail project junked

DRILON

PDI PHOTO

ILOILO CITY—Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday said the planned rehabilitation of the P23-billion Panay railways project would not push through because the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) did not approve the project.

"The Neda disapproved it because it seems to be overpriced. We're talking here of a 117-kilometer railway project. We could just imagine how much would a one-kilometer section alone cost under the scheme," he said.

Now that the project had been shelved, Drilon said about 5,000 squatters living along the railway track need not worry about eviction.

The Panay Railways Inc. (PRI) operated the railway system that connected Iloilo City to Roxas City in Capiz. It, however, closed shop in the mid-1980s after encountering financial difficulties.

But the government identified the Panay railways as one of the five railway systems in the country which it planned to rehabilitate.

The Neda, however, studied the project and found it financially and economically unviable.

This was contained in the April 17 letter of Neda chair Romulo Neri to Dr. Ofelia Bulaong, chair of the Philippine Veterans Investment Development Corp., to inform her about the Neda's disapproval of the project. *Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau*

110 East Visayas areas on watch list

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—With less than a week before elections, the Philippine National Police in Eastern Visayas has identified 110 areas in the region as places where election-related violence are likely to occur.

But Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma, police regional director, said there was no need to place any of these areas under the control of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

"We can still control the situation. Placing any part of Eastern Visayas under Comelec control will be a black eye to us all, not only to the PNP. It will be construed to mean that the entire region is in trouble in terms of peace and order," Coloma told the INQUIRER.

Coordination

He added there was close coordination between the police, the military and the Comelec to prevent violence during the elections.

Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, deputy commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division based in Samar, said his men were ready to be deployed to help keep the peace.

The 8th ID has three main battalions—the 801st based in Bagacay town, Samar, 802nd based in Burauen, Leyte and 803rd based in Catarman, Northern Samar.

The PNP classified as immediate areas of concern 26 towns and cities while the remaining 84 were labeled as areas of concern.

Supt. Pio Manito, PNP regional chief operations officer, said a locality is identified as immediate areas of concern if election-related violence is likely to occur during and after the May 10 elections due to the presence of partisan armed groups, intense political rivalry and presence of rebel members.

Localities with history of election-related violence are classified as areas of concern, he added.

Of the six provinces in Eastern Visayas, Leyte has the most localities classified as areas of immediate concern with eight while Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar have six each.

Ormoc City and the towns of Albuera, Kananga, Mayorga, Merida, Palompon, San Isidro, and Villaba in Leyte were classified as immediate areas of concern.

The police placed Tacloban and 18 towns in Leyte as areas of concern.

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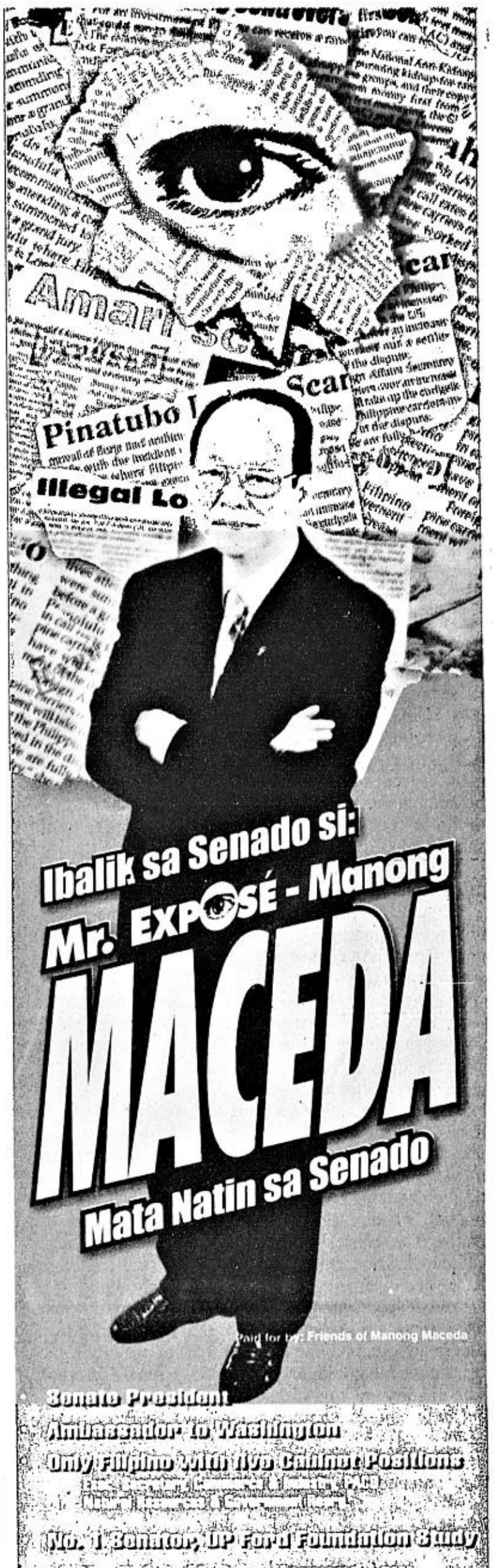

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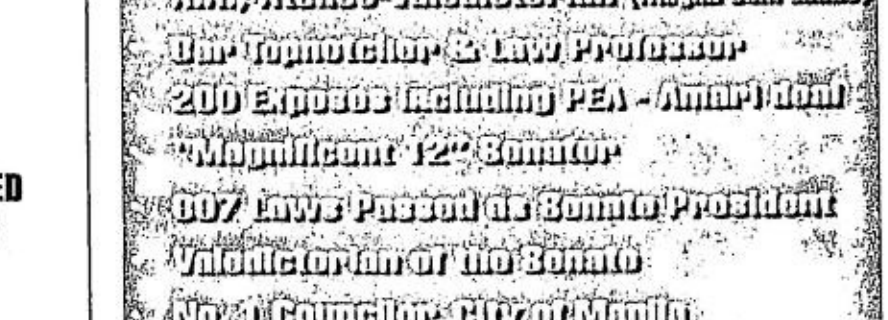

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Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
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Depravity

GEORGE W. Bush went before two hand-picked Arabic television stations (one funded by the US government), and bewailed the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by American troops without making a direct apology. The apology he left to generals. But neither the apology nor the tardy expression of disgust has managed to pacify Arabs or Americans.

EDITORIAL What some American soldiers (and contractual workers for the US army) did to the Iraqi prisoners has been compiled by Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba (a Filipino-American) in a report. It is a catalog of obscenity and depravity and deserves to be listed in full.

Punching, slapping and kicking detainees; jumping on their naked feet; videotaping and photographing naked male and female detainees; forcibly arranging detainees in various sexually explicit positions for photographing; forcing detainees to remove their clothing and keeping them naked for several days at a time; forcing naked male detainees to wear women's underwear; forcing groups of male detainees to masturbate while being photographed and videotaped; arranging naked male detainees in a pile and then jumping on them; positioning a naked detainee on a MRE (meal, ready to eat) Box, with a sandbag on his head, and attaching wires to his fingers, toes and penis to simulate electric torture; writing "I am a Rapest" (*sic*) on the leg of a detainee alleged to have forcibly raped a 15-year-old fellow detainee, and then photographing him naked; placing a dog chain or strap around a naked detainee's neck and having a female soldier pose for a picture; a male MP guard having sex with a female detainee; using military working dogs (without muzzles) to intimidate and frighten detainees; biting and severely injuring a detainee; taking photographs of dead Iraqi detainees. These are the abuses that have been documented through videos and photographs and testimony.

Arab media have pointed out that as early as November last year, some of their brethren were already airing allegations of abuse. The Iraqi people aren't particularly surprised by the photos of abuses that have leaked out, because such behavior was already being whispered about all along. For many Iraqis, their suspicions have merely been confirmed. For many Arabs, the photos circulated by the media serve as definitive proof that America does not act in good faith, or with sincerity. Never has the disparity between official American rhetoric and real American answers been so great, or so gravely damning. For many Americans, it is a face of their country and countrymen that has inspired horror and rightful indignation. But for American officials and military brass, it is a face they still wish to deny—or downplay.

They cannot sweep this under the rug. Their own countrymen won't let them, and the world won't let them. To the rest of the world, which has a longer memory of American behavior than the Americans themselves, the recent revelations are nothing new. At the turn of the 20th century, American troops delighted in posing for grisly photos with the propped-up bodies of dead Filipino troops. American horror today is the heir of horror over the water cure used against Filipinos, and the Mylai massacre in Vietnam.

The fact that revulsion has swept the United States speaks well of the innate decency of many Americans. The demands for an investigation and swift action cannot be ignored. However, what American politicians, soldiers and civilians must realize, is that their presence in Iraq and their involvement in the Middle East have been stripped of all pretensions to legitimacy and idealism. Not for the world, much of which never granted America legitimacy, but for Americans themselves. They are faced with the stark reality of the nature of their occupation of Iraq—one that is grounded on an arrogant disdain for public opinion and built on a foundation of naked aggression which reduces them to being at par with the regime they displaced.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld recently argued that "Equating the two, I think, is a fundamental misunderstanding of what took place." He was referring to superficial comparisons of the behavior of US troops in the Abu Ghraib prison to that of the torture squads of Saddam Hussein. The behavior of the abusive troops and their contractual support staff is worse. Saddam's was a brutal dictatorship built on fear; America proclaimed itself as something much, much better, motivated by altruism, characterized by decency. Faced with behavior to the contrary, it has resorted to trying to manage information. And its leader does not even have the decency to make a proper apology, either to the Iraqis or to his own people.

Whom NOT to vote for on Monday

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THREE days from now will be the moment of truth; we will troop to the polls to exercise our right to choose the leaders who will govern us for the next three and six years. For president, we will choose from among (in the words of a reader) "a bumbling actor, a murderous cop, a very sick lawyer, a religious bigot, and an incoherent midget." Not a very good field to choose from.

For members of Congress and local officials, we have to choose from members of political dynasties (banned by the Constitution but not enforced by the government), the lying, promising, stealing and corrupt traditional politicians, the conceited wannabes who believe they are God's gift to humanity, those who run for public office "for the funds of it," and plain weirdos. Not much to choose from, either.

Gone were the days when we had Rectos, Laurels, Tañadas and Dioknos to choose from, brilliant leaders who truly loved their country and its people. Now we are left only with the dregs: movie stars who know next to nothing of the business of fashioning laws, and dirty *trapos* who know too much of the loopholes to be able to fool the people.

Which is probably why, at this late date, a great many voters (more than 10 percent, according to the surveys, which translates to more than four million votes) are still undecided on whom to vote for.

Many people—drivers, maids, workers, relatives, friends, even colleagues—have asked me for advice on whom to vote for, thinking that I know more than they. But I cannot tell them whom to vote for. I'm just as bewildered as the next guy. All I can tell them is whom not to vote for, without giving names but only general guidelines. Here they are:

1. Do not vote for corrupt incumbent government officials, even if the corruption has not yet been proven in court. They steal from us now, they will always steal from us in the future.

2. Do not vote for members of family dynasties (there are exceptions, of course). Generations of their families have already ruled our lives but have not improved them. Time to look for new faces. They may prove to be worse than the old ones, but there is at least a 50 percent chance that they may be better.

3. Do not vote for a candidate just because he has impressive credentials, such as a college degree. Even a string of them doesn't guarantee good performance, as we have already experienced repeatedly. We all have classmates who were brilliant in school but who were not outside of it, and classmates who were *bobos* in class but who excelled in real life, who succeeded in the school of hard knocks. In short, don't be an elitist. Filipinos are obsessed with school diplomas as a badge of honor when we have a faulty educational system that does not really educate the young.

4. Don't vote for a candidate just because your religious leader told you to. Don't let them take away your freedom of choice. Say "yes" if you have to, but vote for your own choice anyway.

5. Don't sell your vote. The candidate who buys your vote will just get back his expenses from the taxes you pay. If he has no qualms about violating the law now, he will always violate the law in the future.

6. Don't vote for candidates who have their posters and streamers in places prohibited by law. The government will have to spend hundreds of millions of our taxes just to remove them and clean public places The only way you can punish these candidates and teach them a lesson is not to vote for them. If they can violate the law with impunity while they are not yet in power, imagine what they will do when they get into power.

7. Finally, don't vote for the insane. There are a lot of them running around.

* * *

The Supreme Court has thrown out two petitions that sought to make our elections more rational and fair. One wants to stop religious leaders from dictating to their flocks whom to vote for, the other wants to prevent the publication of political surveys before an election. The petitioners claimed they unduly, unfairly and illegally influence people to vote for certain lucky candidates at the expense of all the others. The highest court of the land refused to intervene, on the grounds that to do so would be to curtail the people's freedom of expression and of choice.

I'm not as technical as lawyers and justices, so I think the Court erred on the side of timidity. It made the spirit of the Constitution subservient to the technicalities. It is no secret that courts would rather sidestep difficult issues if it can use technicalities to justify abdicating its responsibility. That's what the Court did.

The provision on the separation of church and state was put in the Constitution precisely to stop what we are experiencing now: religious leaders meddling in the affairs of government. This meddling was what allowed the abuses of the friars during the Spanish regime, in the Inquisition, and even in the 20th century, in the genocide in Iran by the ayatollahs.

To be sure, the Supreme Court did not rule that religious groups like the Iglesia ni Cristo have the constitutional right to dictate to their followers whom to vote for and don't violate the provision on the separation of church and state. Instead, it skirted the question by saying that the petition was technically defective and that preventing the religious leaders from dictating to their flocks and survey firms from publicizing the results of their surveys would deprive all of them of the freedom of expression and of choice.

I beg to disagree. I think that on the contrary, the dictation deprives the people of their freedom of choice. *(To be continued)*

Stand your ground

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I LOVED the part in "The Last Samurai" where Katsumoto (Ken Watanabe) asks Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise), "What happened to the warriors at Thermopylae?"

He asks this while they are lying in the trenches, waiting for the enemy to fire its last volley. Algren had told Katsumoto the story earlier: "There was once a battle at a place called Thermopylae. Three hundred brave Greeks held off a Persian army of a million men. For two days, the Greeks made them pay so dearly the Persian army lost all taste for battle and were defeated soon after."

Now, before their own enemy fires its last round, Katsumoto asks that question, "What happened to the warriors at Thermopylae?" Algren replies: "Dead to the last man."

Katsumoto smiles. He is pleased with the answer. They jump out of the trenches and rush the enemy.

One may of course dismiss all this as romantic tosh. Well, all romance—and heroism—will be tosh for those who cannot grasp the concept. All things that are larger than life will always appear vaporous to those who are smaller than life. But it's that kind of romantic tosh that lives on.

I do not know how much of "The Last Samurai" actually happened. Though it is nice to think of those who fought the emperor's false advisers as surviving in the memory of the race (which is where anyone can really survive in the end) and not the false advisers who slaughtered them.

I do know that Leonidas and his 299 Spartans held off Xerxes' legions at the pass at Thermopylae, give or take the romantic magnifications all history that passes on to legend is heir to. Though Xerxes was finally able to rout the Greek defenders after being shown another mountain pass by a traitor, and although he was able to burn Athens and destroy the Acropolis, he himself was pushed back. He suffered a major defeat at Plataea a year later at the hands of another Spartan leader, Pausanias, and 14 years later Cimon, a Greek general, destroyed his army and navy in the Battle of Eurymedon.

At the very least, what all this says is that heroic deeds often produce very positive results in the long run, if not immediately. Immediately, it may simply lead to the immolation of the heroes. Renato Constantino's thesis in "A Past Revisited," his account of Philippine history, is that it was the accumulation of small revolts that happened throughout the course of Spanish rule that produced the big one in 1896. It is a perfectly defensible idea: It is borne out in real life. Heroism, like matter and energy, never really goes to waste.

One may of course say that is all very well for those who benefit from their actions, but what about those who carried them out? They won't be around to see the effects of their deeds.

Ah, but that's the most magical part of it. They don't have to. Heroism is its own reward. Nobility is its own justification. Doing the right thing is its own victory. That is the reason Katsumoto smiles at the thought of the 300 Spartans perishing in the end. However the battle turns out, he has already won a victory. He has won a victory by fighting that way, he has won a victory by dying that way. However the battle turns out, the enemy has lost.

All this may seem like a very long-winded and off-tangent way to argue for the idea of voting wisely, but it is not. Voting wisely in this country has taken on the aspect of standing one's ground, like a Leonidas or Katsumoto, against the legions of ignorance, inertia, and a sheer refusal to think.

How legion the enemy is, you will find in the unrelenting commentaries and exhortations for you to go to the side of the "sure win," the one who has the resources or the charisma, the one who has the ads or the surveys behind him or her. None of it has to do with principle, none of it has to do with right and wrong, everything of it has to do only with "pragmatism," the last refuge of the cynical. You do not have to go far to see how thoroughly the enemy surrounds you. In gatherings of family or friends, you will hear it every time: Vote for the one who is likely to win. Vote for "the winner." It is rarely put that explicitly of course, but that is the subtext of the jokes about the candidate you believe in being just a bleep in the fringes of the radar screen.

Voting wisely is merely standing your ground. You stand your ground, you win.

At the very least, unlike a battle where the power lies outside of you, in the arms the troops bear, here it lies inside of you, in the vote you hold in your hands. The principle remains that if you vote for a candidate, he or she wins, if you do not, he or she does not. Example is contagious, and good example the most contagious of all. Enough people get to think like you, your candidate wins.

Even if your candidate does not, you do. Doing the right thing, or following your conscience, however you want to look at it, is never lost or dissipated, it always makes other things possible. The first Edsa did not begin with Ninoy's death, it began with the deaths of the many activists who first raised a fist at martial law. You refuse to bow down today to the pressure of voting for the lesser of two evils when you can always vote for the better of two goods, you will make it possible for the right candidate to win tomorrow.

And, finally, whatever happens to the elections, you win by the very act of doing what is right, by the very essence of following your conscience. Heroism is its own reward, nobility is its own justification, doing the right thing is its own victory. However the battle turns out, you will already have won. However the battle turns out, your enemy will have already lost.

Voting wisely is just smiling sublimely after you hear your cause is all but lost. And rushing to vote for your candidate anyway.

Villanueva's middle-class armies

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

BRO. Eddie Villanueva is the first religious leader to run for president, relying on a born-again Christian constituency to shoulder him on to Malacañang. Other religious leaders, like those of Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai, have stopped short of seeking political office. They have limited themselves to mobilizing their constituencies as voting blocs in the effort to influence presidential election outcomes. The INC's and El Shaddai's constituencies are larger than those of Brother Eddie's Bangon Pilipinas.

If the secular politicians are not alarmed at the entry of the evangelist Villanueva into the presidential arena, the reason seems to be that they do not consider him a serious threat to win the elections. Opinion surveys place him last in the field of accredited presidential candidates, taking no more than 5 percent. So, many dismiss Villanueva as a political fluke.

What amazes many is that Villanueva has been drawing large crowds in his political rallies—especially his last rally at the center of Makati and at the Luneta, where he claimed nearly two million packed the square. Space calculations at the Luneta show his claims are grossly exaggerated.

Clearly, Villanueva is more articulate than Fernando Poe Jr. He has a deeper educational background than Poe. He claims to have been a regent of the state-owned Polytechnic University of the Philippines and, among others, attended a manager's course at the University of the Philippines. He has an opinion on nearly every issue under the Philippine political sun and his platform addresses a broad band of issues including the budget deficit, poverty, unemployment, capital punishment, globalization, the pork barrel, the environment, constitutional change, terrorism, foreign policy, divorce, prostitution, population management, and most of all, corruption.

These credentials appear to be the elements that have attracted middle-class people to his messianic standard. His central issue is corruption, an issue he shares with the other candidates opposing President Macapagal-Arroyo. The middle classes, mesmerized by his evangelism, find in Villanueva what they fail to see in Poe. Villanueva presents himself as the savior of the country from corruption seeking to seize the high moral ground from Ms Macapagal, who has been pummeled by all her opponents on that issue.

Villanueva's starry-eyed constituents find in him the middle ground between Ms Macapagal and Poe. These constituents count among themselves such notables as former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and former National Economic Planning director general Cielito Habito. The appeal of Villanueva therefore reflects a deep undercurrent of longing for a political savior, a role that he offers himself with messianic religious messages that are laced with generous quotations of the scriptures, offering palliatives and prayers to solve difficult secular problems.

The constituency of Villanueva is an expression of its disenchantment of a political system that has failed to present to the voters a clear alternative to President Macapagal. Thus, this disaffection with the failures of the political system has translated into support for Villanueva who has nothing more to offer in substance than tapping the disenchantment of the middle classes with the political system that has failed to put up viable alternatives to Ms Macapagal.

Villanueva's appeal is addressed not to the poorer classes but to the middle classes. The middle classes are not without fault. Although they are better educated and have better incomes than the poorer classes, they are to blame for not channeling their political aspirations to institutional vehicles, such as parties only the middle classes can effectively organize, but to charismatic personalities. The middle classes are more likely to support idiosyncratic movements, such as people power, and messianic movements rather than institutions. This is demonstrated by the fact that Edsa I and Edsa II, both non-institutional methods of reform and political change, were powered by the middle classes. Now that the middle classes have found people power too dangerous and mob rule hard to tame, they have channeled their disenchantment into messianic movements. Their identification with Villanueva representatives is a cop out, since the middle classes are fully aware that Villanueva does not have a ghost of a chance to win the presidency. A presidential candidate who puts all his eggs on the middle classes is fated to fail.

Villanueva is no better than the peasant leaders of millenarian movements which had led peasant revolts promising peasants with salvation from poverty, exploitation and feudal domination. One such leader was Flor Entrencherado in Iloilo and Negros Occidental. He led a peasant revolt that ended with him going to jail, together with his benighted, ignorant followers.

Villanueva's messianic movement is a reincarnation of the turn-of-the-century millenarianism. It is a movement that has emerged in a postmodern society, finding recruits not from ill-educated peasants but more from the educated, urban middle classes, which should know better than being seduced by incantations of salvation by messianic evangelism. In putting their faith in Villanueva, the middle classes are tragic because they are avoiding making hard choices and have found in Villanueva a medium for escapism and soft options. The middle classes have been the cutting edge of social revolutions that shed blood—such as those in France, Tsarist Russia and Vietnam. In the Philippines the middle classes want change without blood and to avoid bloodshed, they seek refuge behind the safe mantle of messianism.

A born campaigner

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT had always been a mystery to me why President Macapagal-Arroyo should wind up her three years in office suffering from an unsavory public image, trailing in popularity behind "Da King" of Philippine Movies, her former education secretary and even a senator who'd been linked to drug syndicates, and scowling and scolding her way to news headlines.

It was a mystery because Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo before she was ensconced in Malacañang had always been an adept politician, particularly skilled in the shaping of her public image, and proving herself an efficient vote-generating machine. Remember, she won more votes than Erap did in 2001, and had topped the senatorial race in the previous elections.

Well, I saw a glimmer of an answer to the mystery recently. Watching TV footage of GMA on the campaign trail, I couldn't help noting how she projected relaxation and ease even as she made her way through a crowd of supporters. Why, she really looked like she was enjoying herself! Her smile, which appeared strained and looked closer to a grimace of dismay rather a display of pleasure in the last few months, now seemed genuine and effortless. Her body language, once so stilted it looked comical especially when she tried "slumming" among the urban poor, seems to have gained fluency.

In contrast, her biggest rival Fernando Poe Jr., who still commands throngs of fans and believers wherever he goes, has appeared increasingly strained and sullen. The shift in his mood and the pall over his machinery are reflected in his deteriorating relationship with the media people covering his campaign. No matter how many people you draw to your rallies, the media are still in charge of your image, and turning them off is a major risk.

* * *

MAYBE Gloria's new-found "bounce" is due to her improving numbers in the surveys, or the impression of "winnability" created by doctored polls, as her opponents claim.

Indeed, confidence and the seeming certainty of victory can add spring to the step of a candidate, whose own show of confidence could demoralize opponents and draw votes like a magnet. Victory—or the prospect of it—is mesmerizing.

But I think what we've been seeing the past weeks is a politician rediscovering, or plunging wholeheartedly into, the joys of campaigning, and taking to the thrill of the chase like a hound smelling blood.

GMA is a natural politician, and her instincts have always been honed toward the art of political compromise and advantage, rather than governance based on principle or vision. Which is precisely what gives pause to those who are still searching for a presidential candidate to support but are leaning toward GMA if only to counter FPJ's popularity.

Will victory by GMA on May 10 turn her into a better President? There are those who say that, with no next election to prepare for, she might prove more willing to challenge vested interests. But she could very well view her new mandate as a vindication of her policies and performance in the past, reinforce her certainties, many of which are downright wrong, instead of making her more open to dialogue and reason.

GMA has already proven herself a great campaigner. What she still needs to convince us is that she can be an even better President.

* * *

AS for FPJ, certainly noticeable is the heavy bombardment of television ads, including two that stand out because they appear to be directed at markets previously ignored and neglected by his camp.

The first is an ad in which FPJ is shown, full frontal, sober and channeling his inner statesman, addressing the viewer and announcing his plans for his first 100 days in office. Its effect is jarring because for many voters, this is the first time they would hear FPJ talk seriously about issues, or say more than a sound bite, for that matter.

My knee-jerk reaction upon first catching sight of the ad was: "*Ngayon pa!*" After months of earnest courting and hounding by the media, and his equally earnest spurning of these efforts, stating he didn't believe in debates or lengthy interviews, now he sees the need to tell voters what he plans to do as president. Too little, too late, I say.

The second ad is obviously directed at young voters, an "MTV-style" montage of young people rapping the reasons for their support of FPJ. I guess the KNP finally woke up and smelled the frappuccino: FPJ is particularly unpopular among the youth, especially first-time voters. Again, too late. It takes more than a snazzy ad to overcome the young people's idealism and their cynicism about actor-politicians, especially given FPJ's silence for most of the campaign.

* * *

WHILE politicians and political parties will be holding their respective "*miting de avance*" in these days immediately preceding the elections, Abanse! Pinay will be holding "Prayers de Abanse" later today.

In Cebu, a "Prayers de Abanse" will be held at 4 p.m. at Fuente de Osmeña, with different parties and groups praying different mysteries of the Holy Rosary and all together praying for clean and honest elections and for the election of more women to Congress as well as to other national and local posts.

In Manila, Abanse! Pinay leaders and members will be joining the Mass for Clean, Honest and Peaceful Elections at 12 noon at the San Agustin Church, upon the invitation of former President Cory Aquino and Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, and with the five presidential candidates, their supporters and other candidates.

Let's all pray that the results of the elections on Monday will be for the good of our country and people and that they truly reflect the will of the people who certainly deserve more than what our politicians have so far been willing or able to deliver.

Senate choices

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

AS of today, 48 candidates are vying for the 12 available seats in the Senate. Five of them are reelectionist senators. Eight are ex-senators who want to reclaim their old seat.

The rest are either former government officials or private citizens who think they possess the qualifications for membership in the so-called training ground of future Philippine presidents.

The roster of candidates reflects the country's troubled political spectrum. Juan Ponce Enrile (the oldest among the group at 80 years of age), Ernesto Maceda and Francisco Tatad are vestiges of the authoritarian rule of President Ferdinand Marcos.

The political interests of deposed President Joseph Estrada are represented by his son Jinggoy, Didagen Dilangalen, Boots Anson-Roa and Jamby Madrigal. The party in power and its erstwhile ally, Raul Roco, have put up their own sets of candidates whom they expect to push for their programs of government in the Senate.

Like in previous elections, there are independent senatorial candidates. Hardly known and with limited financial resources, it is doubtful if any of them can duplicate the feat of Sen. Noli de Castro and Sen. Gregorio Honasan of winning in 2001 without aligning or identifying themselves with a major political party.

If the right kind of senators is elected, the Senate can regain its prestige as a forum for intelligent and meaningful discussion of proposed legislation. Today, sad to say, the present crop of senators can't seem to decide whether they want to be Sherlock Holmes or the legendary Solon.

At the drop of a hat or whenever a senator wants to see himself in the news, the Senate conducts an investigation supposedly in "aid of legislation." The preoccupation with publicity-rich but substance-deficient issues has, not surprisingly, resulted in the poorest quality of laws ever to come out of the legislative mill in recent years.

The Senate's style of legislation no longer fits the needs of the times. Fresh ideas and new blood are needed to help meet the challenges posed by globalization and international terrorism to our people. Former President Fidel Ramos was right when he said it's time for the younger generation to take over the nation's leadership.

This is not to denigrate the capability of the chronologically-challenged (that's the politically correct term for senior citizens), but the candidates who are way past their biological maturity have had their chance of running (or ruining?) the country. The time has come for them to exit from the political scene to give the younger generation of talented Filipinos the opportunity to clean up the mess that they've created or failed to clean up.

On Monday, I will cast my vote for the candidates who I think are not tied down to the traditional ways of doing business and can think out of the box in solving the country's economic and social problems.

On top of my list is Dick Gordon. As tourism secretary of President Macapagal-Arroyo, he came up with programs that kept the country in the tourism map despite the adverse publicity generated by the activities of the Abu Sayyaf bandits and other criminal elements. Before that, as head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, he and his corps of volunteers preserved the former US naval base and transformed it into a world-class commercial and industrial complex.

Next is Mar Roxas. The measures he implemented when he was trade and industry secretary encouraged the entry of foreign investments into areas that brought out the best in Filipino creativity and versatility. His expertise in international finance and grasp of the problems of domestic trade will be helpful in crafting the legislation needed to prepare the country to meet the challenges of the forthcoming free trade regime in Asean and globalization.

I will also vote for Parouk Hussin, the governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. A physician by profession who worked in rural Mindanao, he was a high-ranking member of the Moro National Liberation Front of Nur Misuari before it forged a peace agreement with the government. His familiarity with the problems of Mindanao can help the government's efforts to enter into a lasting peace accord with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and other Muslim secessionist groups.

Also included in my sample ballot is Frank Chavez. As solicitor general during President Cory Aquino's administration, he initiated the legal moves that enabled the government to recover substantial amounts of the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses.

Rounding out my list of senatorial candidates are Orlando Mercado (the defense secretary of Estrada), Nicanor Gatmaytan Jr. (the blind lawyer who did not allow his physical disability to prevent him from pursuing his profession) and Perfecto Yasay Jr. (the chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission who revealed Estrada's attempt to pressure him into approving the shady deals of his cronies).

Outside of the eight candidates mentioned, I have no intention of filling up the 12 slots for the Senate. I will only vote for the candidates who I believe possess the moral and intellectual qualifications to be lawmakers.

It is of no concern to me that some of these candidates do not figure in the list of probable winners in the surveys conducted by reputable polling firms. I am old enough not to be affected by the bandwagon mentality.

Neither do I feel that my vote will be wasted if some of them do not make it to the Magic 12. What matters is I vote according to my conscience. I leave the rest to fate.

On May 10, go out and vote!

Trust, healing and democracy

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WITH ELECTIONS just a few days away, I thought of sharing a modified version of the A. G. Sison Memorial Lecture which I delivered yesterday at the annual convention of the Philippine College of Physicians:

There is a growing body of social science research showing the pivotal role of trust within societies. Trust, according to the political scientist Francis Fukuyama, is the lubricant that makes any group or organization run efficiently. High levels of trust have been found to help stabilize democratic institutions, which in turn encourage economic growth and "subjective well being," better known to many of us as happiness.

In studies such as the World Values Survey, the Philippines has been found to be a low-trust society. Similar findings have been made by psychologists, who describe Filipinos as tending toward "small-group affiliation," mainly the family and peer groups or the *barkada*. Beyond those domains, we tend to be more mistrustful, with many negative consequences such as nepotism and corruption, even our weak sense of nationhood.

Low trust endangers the already weak democratic institutions that we have. For example, as trust deteriorates, societies become more difficult to govern. The usual response is to pass more laws with more severe penalties, which only fuels more mistrust, especially if the laws are not enforced uniformly. As societies become less governable, authoritarian politicians become more appealing with their promises of peace and order, usually by dispensing with human rights. The sad reality though is that in authoritarian societies, trust levels sink even more, dictators and despots staying in power by keeping people suspicious of each other.

Our low levels of mistrust are not accidental. They are the products of a whole historical heritage, brought about by many factors ranging from geography to social institutions. In the Philippine context, colonialism benefited from keeping us divided, bound by narrow family and regionalistic loyalties rather than dangerous nationalism. Feudalism also played an important role, emphasizing absolute loyalty to landlords and political warlords by keeping people dependent.

There is a relationship between our low levels of trust and the state of our politics today. We vote based on loyalties for relatives, for a town mate, for someone of the same ethnicity or the same political dynasty. Over time, we have become more distrustful of traditional politicians but rather than moving toward issue-based politics, we have merely shifted our choices toward new players such as movie stars and media personalities. The fact is that our trust remains limited to people we can see, and unfortunately, it is these larger-than-life personalities who literally invade our living rooms and bedrooms several times each day.

The elections actually offer us opportunities for trust-building, especially with younger people.

First and most importantly, get out and vote on May 10. Despite the circus atmosphere, high voter turnout suggests we still have some trust in our political processes.

Second, trust the young to make wise choices. The worst that could happen is for parents to dictate to their children who they should vote for, especially if the choices are made because the candidate is dad's *kumpare* or mom's classmate. Any parent who endorses candidates simply because of personal ties has no right to talk about making "educated" or "wise" choices. Worse, such endorsements tell our young people that they should only trust the small networks prescribed to them.

Explain what criteria we should use to select whom we vote for. Help the young (and the not so young) to see through the glitter, the empty rhetoric, the inanities of politicians. Do not be afraid to show how upset you are with candidates like John Osmeña, with his claim that it was his legislation that brought cell phones to Filipinos and whose position on family planning is given as: "Let's have more people and 20 more million Filipinos to export."

Third, take time out to explain governance and why it is important to look into the positions taken by the candidates on various issues. Explain that campaigns are meant to build trust: candidates are saying, "Trust in me, vote for me and I will deliver on my promises." The positions of presidential and senatorial candidates can be found in two Internet sites: www.20-questions.com and eleksyon2004/issues/index.htm.

Fourth, demonstrate your trust in principled politicians. Teach the young (and remind ourselves) to vote for whoever you think is best qualified, even if the public opinion surveys show him or her trailing far behind. We cannot learn to trust other people if we can't trust our own convictions.

Fifth, understand that trust-building will be a slow process, filled with disappointment and frustrations. After the elections, perform a postmortem (sorry about the grim metaphor) and explain why certain people still won despite their lack of clear stands on issues. I'm afraid there will be all too many examples of how people will win based simply on glitter and name recognition. Explain why we need to work harder so that in the future, we can choose from women and men of substance.

Actively monitor the people we elect into office, holding them accountable to the positions they stated on various issues. No doubt, we will regret some of our choices, but as we see more good ones assuming public office, we will begin to appreciate the power of collective action to put women and men of integrity into public office. Then, and only then will we understand the axiom about public office being a public trust.

I will end by using a medical metaphor. Our levels of trust can be compared to the integrity of our bodies' defense and immune systems. A low-trust society is like a patient whose defenses are compromised, which makes him or her more vulnerable to diseases and complications. A low-trust society is assaulted by many vicious cycles, of people unwilling to invest in businesses, which leads to more unemployment and poverty, which further intensifies mistrust, driving investors away and our doctors into nursing schools so they can migrate.

Building trust can be compared to building up a patient's own defense system. We know that the best of medicines and technologies are useless without that defense system being mobilized. In the same way that the prognosis for a patient depends to a large extent on the evaluation of his or her immune system, we will find that it is high levels of trust that allow us to present a good prognosis for our country as it tries to overcome its many problems. Trust is not just a lubricant for efficiency; it is a powerful force that brings people together, emboldening them to transform dreams into visions, and visions into reality.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

The magnificence of Nature Philippines

FOR three days last week, I momentarily forgot images of our political candidates outdoing each other, promising the moon and the stars while on their campaign sorties; masquerading as the answer to our manifold national woes. I was with a group that included a Canadian couple-consultants who explored the wilderness of Cordillera. What I thought to be an ordinary expedition to the Banaue Rice Terraces and Sagada was more than what I expected. Crisscrossing the Bayombong-Banaue-Bontoc-Sagada-Buguias-Baguio expanse was to me an ultimate adventure and nature rediscovery. It reminded me of the awesome beauty and grandeur of Kuranda and Cabramurra of Australia, the Bandung hinterlands of Indonesia, the Golan Heights of Israel, and the grape-growing Rhine valley of Germany. Truly, our country is comparable with the best of the whole world in terms of exotic tourist attractions.

Our Canadian companions were mesmerized by the wonder of Banaue and the mystique of Sagada. They were speechless while traversing Bontoc and Buguias. I, too, was particularly overwhelmed by the magnificence of the expansive Buguias vegetable terraces which bespeak of the Igorots' enduring ingenuity, industry and creativity. While on the trip, I exhilaratingly blurted out to the Canadians: "I am very, very proud to be a Filipino."

Indeed, our country teems with places waiting to be explored and appreciated. Let's not wait for foreigners to tell us how beautiful and charming our country is. Cannot our Department of Tourism be just as aggressive in promoting these places as major tourist destinations as it does for Boracay, Palawan, Cebu, Subic, Tagaytay, etc.?

Meanwhile, let's forget politics. Go, explore the underrated countryside vistas that abound in our country. Let's feel proud to be Filipinos!

—ANTONIO O. OGBINAR,
Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Bacnotan, La Union

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"That in all things God may be glorified."

Vote for statesmen

ELECTIVE positions in the Philippines have become too expensive. More often than not, a candidate has to spend for the campaign more money than he could receive as legitimate compensation from the public office aspired for.

Because our voters are generally poor and ignorant, token amounts of cash usually work wonders in our elections. Moneyed men, therefore, and especially the incumbents, have the edge even if they are really the poorer choice when weighed in terms of competence and dedication to service.

When we commit the error of electing a lavish-spending crook into office, we do not have to contend and suffer only from his evil ways. Minor officials under him will ultimately follow his corrupt ways to get a proportionate share of the booty. The result would be a vicious system of plundering the public treasury to the detriment of poor taxpayers and law-abiding citizens.

Rich and dedicated aspirants may be able to serve the nation better by financing technological and scientific researches, by pioneering in industrial pursuits, or by endowing their riches in socio-civic and charitable concerns; and, perhaps, rightfully earn a place of honor in our country's history, or in the annals of divinely inspired souls. It is not only through public office that one may render a patriotic duty to country and people.

Let us, therefore, leave and entrust the affairs of government to statesmen. True statesmen, not profit-minded and crooked politicians, should be elected into public office.

—IRINEO P. GOCE,
1431 Villa de Lipa, Marawoy, 4217 Lipa City

Role of Estore Exchange in survey

THIS refers to a detail in your story wherein you wrote that "Estore Exchange... tabulated and encoded the data for NFO Trends." (PDI, 4/26/04)

May I clarify that NFO Trends handled all the interviews, encoding and collection of data, tabulation and processing of the information gathered during a nationwide survey conducted from April 20-22, 2004.

Estore Exchange's role was to receive and store the data that were processed and sent by NFO Trends to our secure database system. The NFO Trends data were encoded and stored in our database tables accordingly.

—JJ SORIANO,
president and CEO,
Estore Exchange,
jjsoriano@project.com.ph

Bayan Muna's biased response to NPA extortion

THE PROPOSAL of the Bayan Muna nominee to "rather take the more constructive approach of addressing the legitimate roots of armed conflict rather than simply condemn the NPA's act" (PDI, 4/19/04) substantiates suspicion of its link with the dissident group and constitutes a biased response to the extortion and harassment committed by this group. He should be reminded that peace talks are on their way between this group and the government, and one constructive approach is for Bayan Muna to propose to the CPP-NDF-NPA and GRP panels to address the legitimate roots of armed conflict on the negotiating table.

The NPA should not point its guns at the people and other party-list groups or take advantage of the elections through extortion and harassment in favor of its preferred party list groups.

Extortion and harassment are clear violations of human rights. Forcing people against their will to vote or not to vote certain candidates or groups is an affront to their civil liberties. What changes can we expect from this group and its cohorts when they cannot extend even a simple respect for human rights?

—FR. OSCAR ANTE, OFM,
chair, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (Pahra),
53-B Maliksi St., Barangay Pinyahan, QC

A resounding no to OFW taxation

I AM a 40-year-old physician who gave up a comfortable internal medicine practice in the Philippines to learn new medical knowledge and skills practiced in world-recognized medical centers here in Singapore. I have read with disgust and dismay the plan to tax overseas Filipino workers. The government (and incoming president) should heed the parable of killing the goose that laid the golden egg.

I already lost my respect for the Philippine government after several months of working here in Singapore. I may lose my hope for the government and my Filipino citizenship once OFWs are taxed. My health care colleagues have pointed out that once we become citizens of a foreign country, we cease to be OFWs; hence, no longer obliged to pay any taxes to the Philippine government. Many OFWs may resort to this alternative once they are taxed.

—DR. CARL M. DE LEON,
National Neuroscience Institute, Singapore, carlmdfpcp@yahoo.com

PHILSAR PHILIPPINE SHIPBUILDERS AND REPAIRERS ASSOCIATION

IN SUPPORT OF . . . .

The Maritime Industry Authority
(MARINA)

For the laudable decision of MARINA Administrator Atty. Oscar M. Sevilla of not renewing the operating permits of the vessels of Negros Navigation Co. last 23 April 2004, ***because of the company's failure to prove beyond doubt that they are financially capable to operate their fleet safely and efficiently*** and serve public interest as required by the Public Service Act.

For the MARINA's firm resolve of standing by its decision despite its unpopularity, with the long-term common good as its primary concern.

FOR THE OTHER PLAYERS IN THE SHIP REPAIR INDUSTRY TO BE WARY . . . .

That Negros Navigation has been jumping from one drydocking facility to another because of its reported inability to pay its outstanding dues.

TO THE RIDING PUBLIC TO BE FOREWARNED . . . .

That one cannot expect a cash-strapped shipping company to be fully compliant with all safety (and operational) requirements to efficiently operate its fleet. ***Negros Navigation is many months behind on their payments of their insurance premiums.***

TO THE FILIPINO TAX PAYER AND THE B.I.R.

Negros Navigation has unpaid taxes amounting to over P440 million which carry with it certain criminal liabilities.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Taxing OFWs

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

SANA naman the government will be true to its word and not tax the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). They treat them like heroes and then they oppress them. I hope President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will not change her stance. But then again, why am I not confident?—**Marissa Amos, 36A Malipajo St., Marikina Heights, Marikina City**

* * *

It is a relief that government officials stated that they have no plan to reimpose taxation on the income of OFWs. The OFWs, regarded as the "new heroes" will only become disgruntled if the government reimposes taxation on their income. Exemption from taxation is only a small token of appreciation that should be given to OFWs like me. In fact, it is still not enough to pay for the sacrifices we are making for our country and our families. Additional privileges should be given, like for example tax-free importation of personal cars (if the Filipino diplomats are given this privilege, why not us?).—**Leonardo Vega, Kuwait, via e-mail**

* * *

They hit it right: the very simple reason we (OFWs) should not be taxed is that we are already being taxed by the government where we work and we do not benefit the government services.—**Julius Hilario**

* * *

We call OFWs our heroes and yet they are treated badly by their own government. The money they send every month to their families shores up the economy of the Philippines. What more do you want from them? Their blood? Why not require people like Lucio Tan, the Aranetas, Lopezes and others to pay more taxes? Why saddle the common working man with making up for the deficit in government revenues? In fact, OFWs should be exempted from paying their taxes. Their meager salary and the kind of work they do overseas do not compensate them for the longing and safety of home.—**Ian Molina, 177 Telegraph Rd., Bellingham, Washington, USA, via e-mail**

* * *

Some politicians in the Philippines do not know what they are doing. They do not know the essence of public service. They themselves are instrumental in our incurring huge budget deficits every year. Now, the hardworking OFWs are the prime target for corrupt and self-serving politicians through progressive taxation. It's time for OFWs to work together to preempt and stop this venomous proposed plan. Even if OFWs will remit P50 billion a year, some politicians will just ask for more "milk and pork." Nothing is enough to satisfy them. Be just to the unsung heroes of the land who keep the Philippine economy and its 7,000 islands afloat. No to OFW progressive taxation.—**Dante Vicario, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA**

* * *

The Bureau of Internal Revenue thinks that "highly paid Filipino workers abroad, such as engineers and ship captains, should share their incomes with the Philippine government." I think that lowly paid tax officials who own mansions and expensive cars should share their huge booty with the Philippine government. Who knows, maybe even just a quarter of their loot will solve the tax collection shortfall? I remember G. Pasta in Rizal's "El Filibusterismo." Instead of getting to the root of the problem, he opted to just patch it up—just like dental filling.

I think collection of taxes is not a problem. Taxes are collected all right. Where they go after collection is the problem. Therefore, collecting more taxes will not solve the problem. It just means that tax officials will have another car.—**Cesare Reyes, Yio Chu Kang Road Singapore, via e-mail**

Passenger bus held up in Mandaluyong; two killed

By Luige del Puerto

TWO MEN were killed in a robbery that went terribly awry near midnight yesterday on Edsa in Mandaluyong City.

The police were still trying to confirm the identities of the victims at press time.

An Eastern Police District (EPD) official told the INQUIRER over the phone that the police were holding three suspects. He did not divulge their identities.

Initial investigation and statements from passengers revealed that the bus, a Southern Citylines with plate no. PYK-307, was traveling northbound on Edsa from Ayala Avenue when at least three men declared the heist.

Two of them were armed with handguns, possibly .45-cal. pistols, while the third man had a grenade, police said.

They told the driver to make a U-turn near Camp Crame in Santolan, Quezon City.

Insp. Cesar Bijona, station duty officer of the Mandaluyong police, said the cops' radio room received a call about the robbery from Patrol 117 at around 11 p.m.

"Someone reported to Patrol 117 about armed men inside a bus. He gave the body number," Bijona said.

Bijona said he ordered all patrol cars available to conduct a search on Edsa.

They chanced upon the bus at Edsa corner Boni Avenue, one of the city's busiest streets.

A passersby told the INQUIRER he saw at least three police cars block the bus. Several policemen had their high-powered firearms at the ready, he said.

A team from the regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team based at the Greenhills shopping complex in San Juan also arrived.

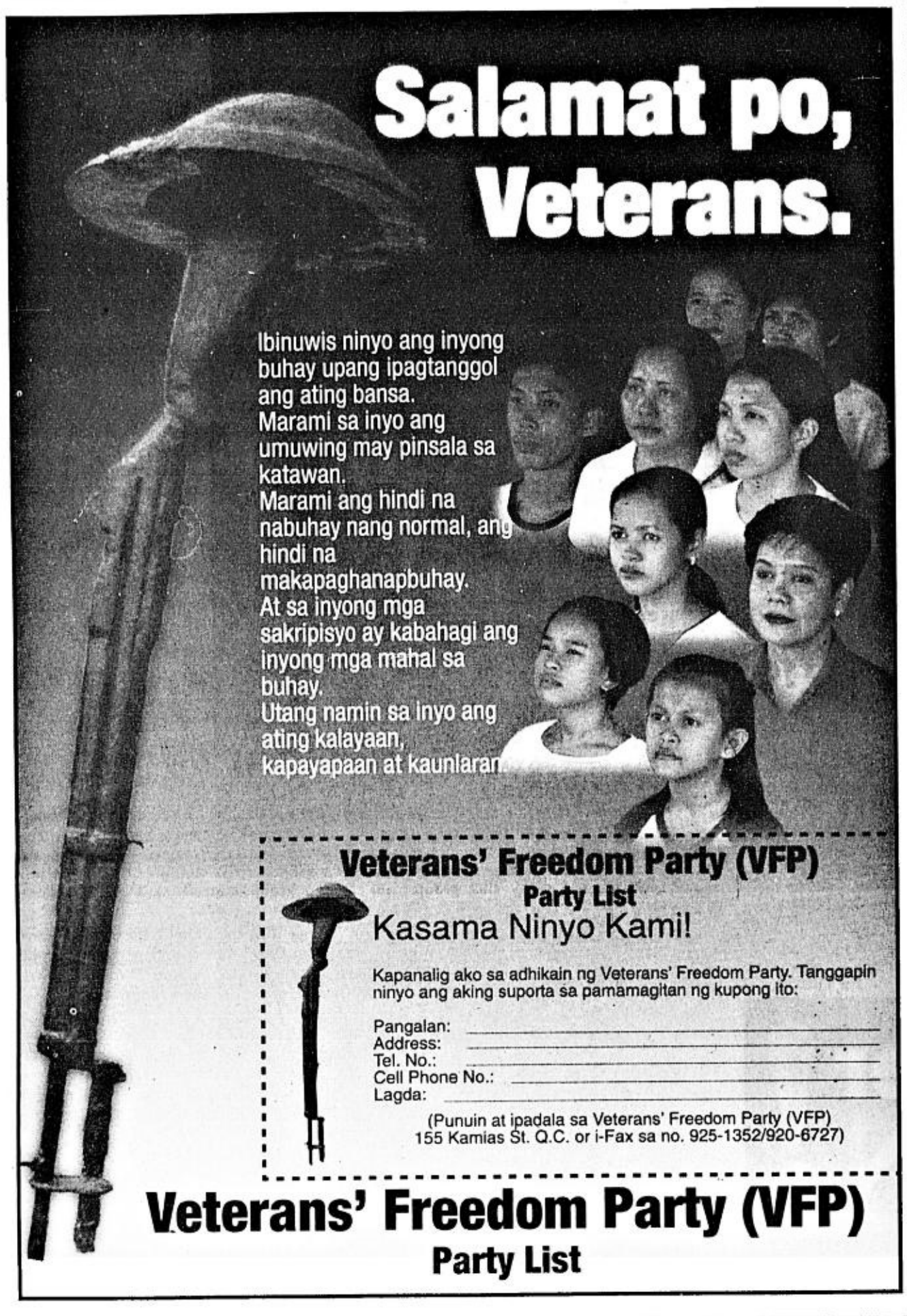
A child was allowed to get off the bus, he said.

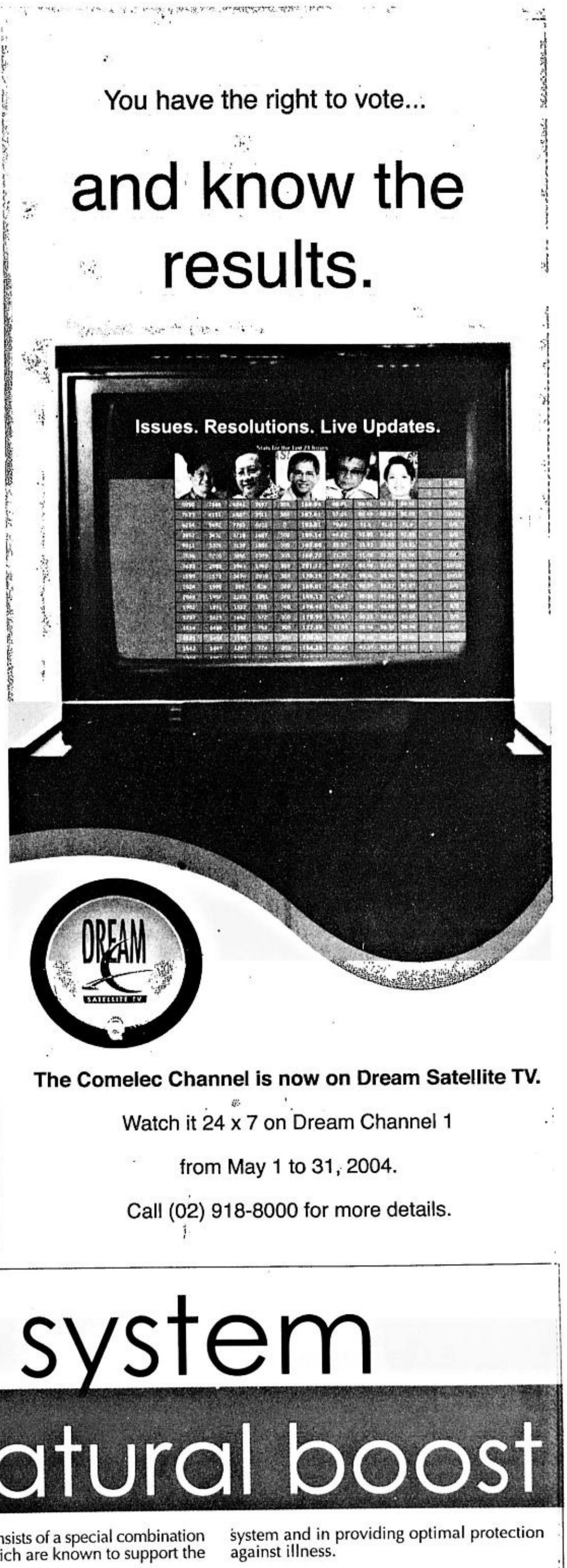
The witness added that he heard at least two shots at this point. Minutes later, he saw a man lying near the foot of the bus, bloodied and apparently dead.

The bus conductor, Mario Cadiz, 32, said he and the other passengers feared making eye contact with the robbers, afraid they would be harmed.

Some 30 passengers, he said, were told to lie face down on the bus floor.

Passenger Rely Santos, 48, an employee of Mercury Drug Store, said he remembered little about the suspects' faces.





Bro. Eddie rally draws 1M in rally

From page A1

front of the Quirino Grandstand.

The Western Police District Tactical Operations Center said the crowd reached a peak of only 700,000 at around 7:30 p.m. By 8 p.m., it had shrunk to 650,000.

"That's not 5 million. They now number 650,000 because the others have already started going home," said PO3 Rommel Neblaso of the WPD-DTOC.

"They certainly did not reach Taft Avenue. We have watchers there," he added.

While the grandstand and the field in front of it was filled by a sea of yellow-clad Villanueva supporters, the portion of Roxas Boulevard cutting across the park was still passable to vehicles.

FPJ's rally

Opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. will hold his *miting de avance* on Saturday.

The standard-bearer of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, his running mate Sen. Loren Legarda and their entire senatorial slate will hold their *miting de avance* near Paseo de Roxas and Ayala Avenue in Makati City.

For security reasons, President Macapagal-Arroyo will not hold a *miting de avance*. She will instead show up in the final rallies of local candidates today and tomorrow in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog.

The President's three-month campaign for a full six-year term was supposed to culminate in a grand production at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City on Saturday. Officials were even talking about holding another rally in Manila today.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. earlier disclosed that terrorists were planning "Madrid-type" bombing attacks in Metro Manila to prevent Ms Macapagal from winning. The President had scrapped a four-day Mindanao-Visayas-Luzon caravan because of reported threats against her life. But yesterday, she swung through Pangasinan and Tarlac.

Unity Mass

Another security concern was the "Unity Mass" to be held on Sunday where the five presidential candidates were expected to be together in one venue for the first time.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales had invited, through former President Corazon Aquino, the five contenders to a Mass for peaceful and credible elections. Ms Macapagal was the first to confirm her attendance at the Mass. Poe, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former Sen. Raul Roco and Villanueva have also confirmed their attendance.

Sison said not one person who turned up for Villanueva's *miting de avance* was part of a "hakot" (paid) crowd.

"You can ask them (if they were paid to attend)," he said yesterday. "The only thing we paid for was the fee for the permit to hold a rally at the grandstand."

Bought their own shirts

Sison said that even the yellow T-shirts worn by Villanueva's supporters were not provided by their camp, pointing out that the T-shirts were in varying shades of yellow because each group of supporters printed their own.

Indeed, almost all of those present at the grandstand, both young and old, as well as corn and cigarette vendors, were in yellow T-shirts bearing the name or image of Villanueva. Others were in T-shirts without the name of the preacher, but their shirts were yellow nevertheless. Some wore yellow bandanas, while others sported masks bearing Villanueva's face.

Yellow and green streamers and yellow balloons and flags adorned the stage.

Men in yellow "Brother Eddie" T-shirts were telling vehicles to stop and assisting pedestrians, mostly Villanueva supporters, in crossing Orosa Street and Roxas Boulevard. Other similarly clad men, along with the traffic police, tried to untangle the knot of vehicles which had massed at the intersection of Kalaw Street and Roxas Boulevard.

Nearer the stage at the Quirino Grandstand, a barricade was set up for those who wanted to enter the area. One end of the barricade was the entrance, where Villanueva supporters checked the bags of those coming in, while at the other end was the exit. Everybody used the designated entrance and exit, and nobody complained. Personnel of the NCR-PO were seen guarding the area.

Sison also said the *miting de avance* was a much-awaited event for Villanueva's supporters, who had been asking for a meeting to show their support for the evangelist. He added that among the presidential aspirants, Villanueva so far had been able to attract the bigger crowds.

"I'd like to see (the other presidential aspirants) hold a rally this big," he said, adding: "And when the three million supporters of Bro. Eddie gather at the Quirino Grandstand, it will be heard all the way to Malacañang."

One of the speakers at the rally yesterday was Dolphy Quizon Jr., son of top comedian Dolphy who is campaigning for Poe.

The younger Quizon said that when he told his father he was supporting Villanueva, his father did not mind. "OK son, if Ronnie (Poe's nickname) does not win, I hope Brother Eddie does," Quizon Jr. quoted his father as saying.

All the way from Saudi

One of those in the crowd who made his support for Villanueva known was Dennis Monong, who came with his family and friends who encouraged him to come so that he could see for himself why Villanueva deserved to be supported.

"I even know some supporters of Bro. Eddie who came home from Riyadh just to vote for him," Monong said.

Yolly, a supporter who hails from Quezon City, said that she spent for the shirt, fare and food just to go to the rally. "I believe in Bro. Eddie. Even if I am Catholic, I believe he is the only true leader who will be good for our country. Even the priest in my community believes in him," she said.

Mercy Cultural from Makati also came with the city's whole Jesus is Lord (JIL) community. The JIL is the group headed by Villanueva, a preacher.

Inspirational

Sen. Vicente Sotto III, Poe's personal campaign manager, said the actor's *miting de avance* would be an "inspirational rally" and would be bigger than the KNP's proclamation rally in February at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

Sotto said the event would be marked by less entertainment. But he said that Poe's friends in show business would be there.

Sotto said the KNP had already obtained a permit for the four-hour rally that would start at 5 p.m. "We hope to rally more of the undecided on our side," he said.

Sotto said Poe would give a speech that would center on his platform of government.

Opposition plot

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, meanwhile, said the opposition was plotting a campaign of violence if it loses in next week's national election.

He said the alleged plot by opposition activists and retired and active military personnel would start with reports of "massive cheating" in Monday's balloting, followed by power outages blamed on the administration and a walkout by opposition election observers. ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Kate Pedroso and Niel Lim***

Political rally Arithmetic 101

By PDI Research

CROWD estimates of political rallies are a big deal these days. These are often contentious because rally organizers and police estimates vary greatly. As someone put it, the estimates usually depend on the political bias of the one doing the counting.

A case in point is the number of people who attended the proclamation rally of presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva on Feb. 22 at the Rizal Park in Manila. It was reported in a newspaper that 2.8 million attended the rally. Other newspapers reported a much lower figure of less than a million.

Gauging the size of crowds at rallies accurately is difficult because the people are usually in constant motion. Densities also vary with respect to the distance from the stage.

In "Chronology of a Revolution 1986," author Angela Stuart Santiago presents a method of determining crowd density, which, she says, depends on the positions assumed by the people in the crowd.

She presents different positions that characterize a typical rally and the number of persons per square meter based on accepted architectural dimensions. These positions include a person sitting or squatting and occupies 0.313 sq.m.; standing, with persons at the sides and directly in front at arm's length and occupies 0.44 sq.m.; standing, with elbow room at the sides, front or back, occupies 0.640 sq.m.; standing, shoulder to shoulder, no space between people, occupies 0.125.

Based on her estimates, the most dense is 8 persons per sq.m. when they are standing shoulder to shoulder with no space between them. The least dense is 1.56 per sq.m. when people are standing with elbow room at the sides and at the front and at the back and 2.27 per sq.m. when people are standing with persons at the sides and directly in front at arm's length. The average, considered by the most dense and least dense positions, is 3.56 persons per sq.m.

Getting the total crowd estimate would then entail getting the area and multiplying this by the estimated crowd density.

The entire Luneta Park, for example, from the sea wall to Taft Avenue is 528,832.5 sq.m. The area, which includes the roads surrounding the park, can accommodate 4.2 million people. That is, if it is totally devoid of structures and if eight people are packed in one square meter, standing with no spaces between them.

But if the average of about three people occupying a square meter is used, a totally barren Rizal Park can accommodate about 1.6 million. But this is an overestimation as at least 8,000 sq.m. of the area is used for the huge Philippine map, lagoon, fountains, plant boxes, gardens, monuments and poles, canteens and other structures.

Aerial photos of the Villanueva rally in February showed that his supporters nearly filled up only the grandstand to the Roxas Boulevard area. This has a combined land area of 122,671 sq.m. Based on the least dense estimate of 1.56 per sq.m. and most dense estimate of 8 persons per sq.m., the crowd could be as low as 191,367 or as high as 981,368 but still way below the 2.8 million estimate of Villanueva's supporters.

El Shaddai, too, is for Gloria

From page A1

The President climbed into the bus at 7:15 p.m.; Velarde was not visible throughout the prayer rally.

Robles' announcement of the El Shaddai endorsement of Ms Macapagal appeared to bolster Sen. Loren Legarda's declaration in Manila that she was the group's vice presidential candidate.

Earlier, Legarda, running mate of actor Fernando Poe Jr., refuted talk that El Shaddai would go for Ms Macapagal.

"I don't think so," she said when asked to comment on talk that El Shaddai would split its endorsement by backing Ms Macapagal for president and herself for vice president.

But she said the sample ballots of El Shaddai and its party-list group, Buhay, were carrying her name as vice presidential candidate.

"Mike Velarde has been my longtime adviser, and I consult him on a lot of things. He's also a close personal friend," she said, adding:

"It could be that there will be no public endorsement, but we have an understanding. Look at the sample ballots of El Shaddai and Buhay."

Again speaking of Velarde, Legarda said: "I thank him for his support, political or otherwise, and the prayers.

"He will admit that I consult him."

Very important rally

The President made a round-about trip for the very important prayer rally in this city.

After flying to Boracay to look into the investigation of the massacre early this week of three foreigners and a Filipino in Barangay Balabag, she flew to Lingayen, Pangasinan, to campaign.

She swept through Binmaley, Dagupan, Calasiao, Malasigue, and other Pangasinan towns on her way to Tarlac.

Ms Macapagal was accompanied by Press Secretary Milton Alingod, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.'s wife Gina, campaign assistant Lupita Kashiwahara and other campaign supporters.

Conscience vote

Legarda called on Filipinos to follow their conscience in voting.

"I appeal to the Filipino people to follow the dictates of their conscience and no one else since they are the ones who hold the future in their hands," she told reporters.

Legarda responded with a "no comment" when asked if the Iglesia ni Cristo endorsement of Ms Macapagal and her running mate Sen. Noli de Castro would be fatal to the Poe-Legarda tandem.

"Whatever is their decision, we will respect it. We will continue to treat them as real friends," she said.

Poe himself declined to grant media interviews during the late lunch break of his motorcade around Quezon City.

"There is a reason," he said without elaborating.

Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino insiders claimed that the reason Poe refused to speak with members of the media had to do with feng shui (Chinese geomancy).

'Very huge'

"Our lead is overwhelming," Legarda said with confidence, referring to the KNP's internal surveys supposedly indicating that the opposition was headed for victory on May 10.

"Very huge" was how Legarda described the KNP's level of confidence.

"From Day One up to the present, we witnessed the overwhelming and enthusiastic response of the people from all walks of life, from different regions in the country," she said, adding:

"We are very optimistic that victory is at hand. It's not only a victory of FPJ-Loren but a victory of the people."

Legarda said she also enjoyed the "sectoral support of business, labor, and progressive party-list groups."

"They recognize my brand of unifying leadership. That's very important," she said.

Padilla name missing . . .

From page A1

released by the Commission on Elections in several areas of the country.

"This is worse than *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding-shaving)," lamented Padilla, House minority leader and lone slate mate of breakaway opposition presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Padilla said field supporters, finding out that his name was not on the Comelec list issued in areas like Eastern Samar, Biliran and Bacolod City, had promptly reported the matter to his office.

"This is a grievous error that should be immediately corrected," he demanded of the poll body, especially fearful that the deletion of his name might not be limited to the three areas.

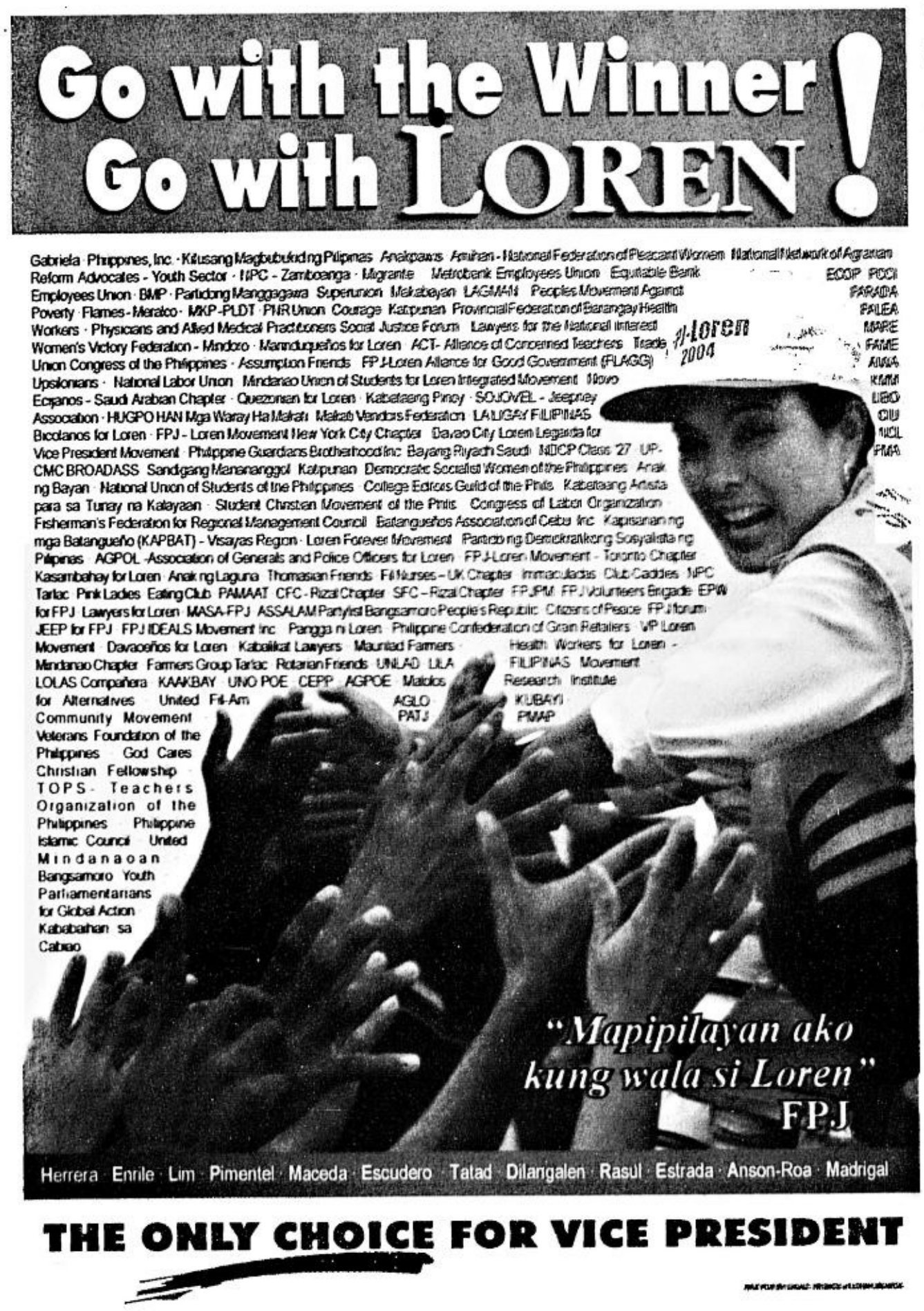
Already, he said, he has asked his field campaigners to "check and recheck" the official candidates' list per province. One Comelec list checked by the INQUIRER showed Padilla's name at No. 38. He was listed as an independent.

Padilla insisted that, all things being on the level, he is sure to land in the winning circle of 12 senators. Based on the assessment of independent analysts, he said, his victory would be delivered by multi-sectoral groups and multi-partisan political blocs, including several people's organizations, nongovernmental organizations, major religious and lay church groups, as well as voters from the so-called "Solid North."

He said several of his colleagues from the 8th to the 12th Congress had likewise pledged their support.

"(But) if your name is not on that list, not a single vote will be credited to you," he pointed out. The Comelec should prepare the corrected list with "extra caution" and release it as soon as possible, he said.

Addressing the poll body, Padilla pleaded his case in behalf of other possible victims of the oversight: "The official list is a matter of life and death for candidates. Those whose names are not on it are goners." ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***



Picasso sells for record $104M

From page A1

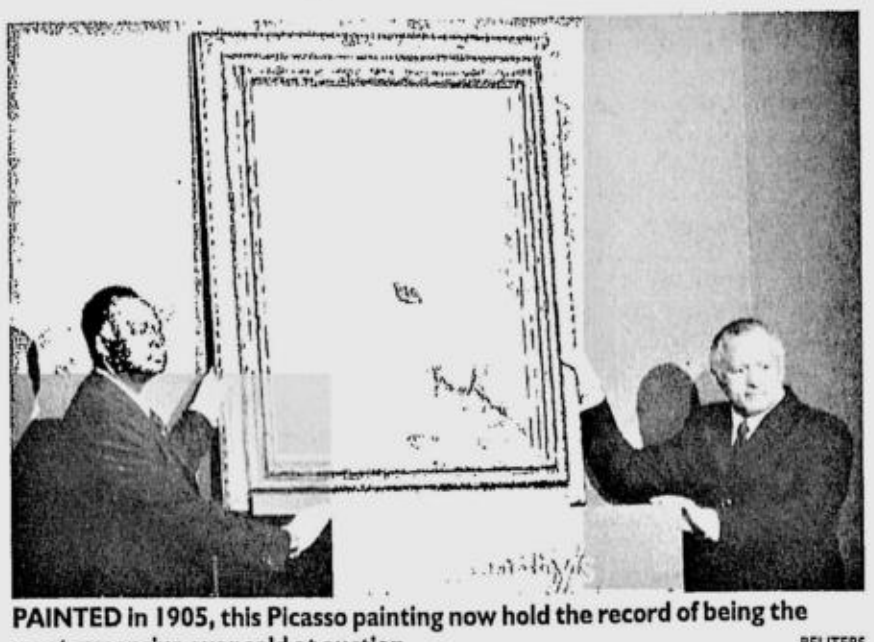
Sotheby's did not say who bought "Boy with a Pipe."

A 24-year-old Picasso painted "Boy with a Pipe" soon after settling in Montmartre, France. It depicts a young Parisian boy holding a pipe in his left hand and wearing a garland of flowers. John Hay and Betsey Whitney bought the painting in 1950 for $30,000.

Rose Period

Sotheby's called the work, which had a presale estimate of $70 million, "one of the most beautiful of the artist's Rose Period paintings and one of the most important early works by Pablo Picasso ever to appear on the market."

The previous highest-selling Picasso piece was "Woman with Crossed Arms," a Blue Period painting done in 1901 and 1902, which sold for more than $55 million in November 2000 at Christie's. It was the fifth-highest auction price paid for a work of art.



PAINTED in 1905, this Picasso painting now hold the record of being the most expensive ever sold at auction. REUTERS

"Boy with a Pipe" was part of a collection of major works by Picasso, Edouard Manet, Edgar Degas and others that headlined an auction of 34 paintings from a charitable foundation created by Betsey Whitney, a philanthropist, Sotheby's said.

Also on the auction block was "Courses au Bois de Boulogne," by Manet. Painted in 1872, it depicts a sunny day at the horse races and features a top-hatted figure in the lower-right corner that is thought to be Manet's fellow racing enthusiast Degas. It sold for $26.3 million.

Media lord

The collection, which had a presale estimate of more than $140 million, netted $190 million. The proceeds will go to the Greentree Foundation—created in 1982 by Betsey Whitney following the death of her husband.

John Hay Whitney was editor in chief and publisher of The New York Herald Tribune from 1961-1966 and chair of the International Herald Tribune from 1966 until his death. He also founded the venture capital firm of J.H. Whitney and Co. Betsey Whitney died in 1998. *AP*

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MANIFESTO:

SONNY OSMEÑA DOES NOT DESERVE THE SUPPORT OF THE CEBUANOS/BISAYA

Don Sergio Osmeña and Serging Osmeña were among the most admired and respected leaders from Cebu. Mayor Tomas Osmeña and Senator Serge Osmeña carries on their legacy of devoted and selfless public service.

But another Osmeña had disgraced the family name and brought untold embarrassment to Cebu.

John Henry Osmeña (alias Sonny) addresses the Cebuano electorate as **"Haring Lungsod."** But after the elections he treats himself as **"Hari sa Lungsod,"** insulting, harassing and oppressing anyone who blocks his quest for wealth and power.

Many individuals, institutions and groups have experienced Sonny Osmeña's legendary vindictiveness. Even the University of the Philippines is not spared, just because he dislikes its President who happens to be a fellow Cebuano. Sonny Osmeña cut UP's budget by over P114 Million Pesos.

During the Davide impeachment, Sonny Osmeña again sided with the Pro impeachment block against a highly respected Cebuano/Bisaya Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr.

After the 1998 elections, he told the Cebuanos "Magpuasa kamo." You go hungry because Erap, my candidate, lost badly in the province. True to his word, Sonny Osmeña as chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee denied funding of development projects in Cebu, including cutting the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) shares of all Local Government Unit (LGU) in the Philippines by P5 Billion in 1999, P15 Billion in 2000 and P15 Billion in 2001.

He is now repackaging his tattered image. But his new image as "John O." cannot hide his real character as a treacherous and perverted politician.

John Henry Osmeña (alias Sonny, alias John O) does not deserve the support of the Cebuanos, Bisaya and the Filipino people.

CONCERNED CEBUANOS/BISAYA

It's official: INC voting for GMA

From page A1

its choices for president and vice president, respectively.

The statement said INC Executive Minister Eraño "Ka Erdy" Manalo "made the final decision after consultations with the ministers of the church all over the country and after much prayer and reflection."

Ms Macapagal confirmed yesterday that she had secured the INC endorsement.

"I asked for their help and I believe they gave it to me, and I am thankful," she told reporters during a campaign sortie in Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

She added that the INC endorsement was an endorsement of her platform.

To the question of whether she had been given the same by the El Shaddai charismatic group, she said: "Maybe. We will see tonight because tonight is their prayer rally [in Tarlac] and I am going there." *(See story on Page A1.)*

Name on sample ballot

Asked over GMA-7's early evening newscast how sure she was that she had been endorsed by the INC, Ms Macapagal said her name was on its sample ballot.

The INC, supposedly with at least 2 million members of voting age, is said to vote as a bloc for whomever its leaders endorse.

Defensor said it was only on Wednesday afternoon that the INC allowed the President's handlers to announce its choices for the top two posts.

He said the INC would distribute sample ballots to its flock nationwide starting today. A number of INC members also said as much after yesterday's 5:30 a.m. service at the INC Templo Central on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Six-six

The INC said in the statement that it had chosen 12 candidates for the Senate—six from the administration coalition K-4 (Mar Roxas, Robert Barbers, Miriam Santiago, Rodolfo Biazon, John Osmeña and Bong Revilla) and six from the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (Aquilino Pimentel, Alfredo Lim, Jamby Madrigal, Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada and Ernesto Maceda).

"In making its decisions on whom to vote for, the Iglesia ni Cristo takes into account the general well-being of its flock and the commitment of the candidates to guarantee the untrammeled exercise of religious freedom. Capability to govern, both physically and intellectually, and political will to effect national unity and peace are also among the factors considered," the statement quoted INC spokesperson Bienvenido C. Santiago as saying.

United vote

At yesterday's INC service, a minister read out a May 3 circular from Manalo informing the members to expect to receive sample ballots for the national and local slates in their homes.

The announcement was preceded by a homily mainly extolling the virtues of a united vote on May 10.

Citing biblical verses, the minister urged worshippers to trust in the INC leadership. He said acting as one body glorified God because it was in accordance with His will.

"Do all things without murmuring and arguing," he said in Filipino, quoting St. Paul's epistle to the Philippians. "Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

According to the minister, the INC is like a human body whose head is Christ and whose two feet cannot take steps in separate directions.

He said the INC leadership's call for a united vote was not a means of "coercion" but of "persuasion" based on doctrines that members embraced when they agreed to be baptized in the faith.

40-percent share of votes

Defensor said Ms Macapagal would shoot for a 40-percent share of the votes, or two percentage points higher than Estrada's record 38-percent share.

"We need a majority vote to establish a strong mandate for the President and ensure stability and economic growth," he said.

He pointed out that the President's efforts to seek consultation and guidance from INC leaders had paid off: "She has listened to his [Manalo's] views and followed his advice on national matters over the past three years, and I believe that this has given her more weight in the eyes of the INC leadership."

Defensor denied that the INC—which is known to pick odds-on favorites in the polls—picked Ms Macapagal because of her "winnability," as shown by her strong showing in the surveys.

"It's not the survey alone that is important. What is important is how the INC, from its smallest member to its highest leaders, views the President," he said.

The Estrada question

Defensor also said Ms Macapagal's humane treatment of Estrada was an offshoot of Manalo's counsel that she "reach out and unify the people" and "heal the wounds" brought about by Edsa II and III.

"When we speak of unifying the country, we have to address the Estrada question," Defensor said.

But he stressed that in securing the INC vote, Ms Macapagal did not cut any deals with the INC regarding Estrada, who has been in detention since shortly after he was ousted in January 2001.

Defensor also said it would be inaccurate to say that Ms Macapagal was chosen mainly because of her policy toward the ousted President.

"There were several issues considered by the INC leaders in choosing their bet," he said.

Ms Macapagal had met with Manalo six times since she became President in January 2001, according to Defensor.

Earlier, Defensor said Ms Macapagal had formally informed the INC leadership of her decision to run for President, and had asked for support.

She went to the sprawling INC compound in Quezon City two months ago but it was Manalo's son, Eduardo, the deputy executive minister, who received her.

The last time she saw Manalo was about nine months ago when she visited the reclusive minister in the hospital inside the INC compound, Defensor said.

The President was to have called on Manalo on Monday morning but the appointment did not push through.

Rejoicing early on

But Malacañang had reason to rejoice early on.

On Wednesday, a Palace source who requested anonymity said a high official of the INC spoke by phone with Ms Macapagal last Saturday and told her: "We will support you."

The President was "very happy" after the call, the source said.

Sought for confirmation on that day, Defensor, who also serves as the President's liaison to the INC, said: "We are waiting for the distribution of the sample ballots [to the INC members]."

On Tuesday, a Palace operative furnished the INQUIRER a copy of the INC sample ballot showing that Ms Macapagal and De Castro had bagged the coveted "anointment."

The copy of the sample ballot carried the dove countersign specified by the INC guidelines.

A copy of Manalo's letter, the one read at yesterday's worship service exhorting the INC members to again be of "one mind and judgment" when they vote on Monday, was also furnished the INQUIRER, along with a copy of a document containing the INC's guidelines on how it would deliver its vote.

Among the guidelines was an injunction to INC leaders to remind members to go to polling centers early to ensure that they would be able to vote.

According to the document, sample ballots will be farmed out house to house starting May 7 up to the eve of the elections, and members will be made to sign on receipt.

'Sure winner'

Even Teddy Casiño, secretary general and second nominee of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna, said on Monday that Ms Macapagal would be the "sure winner" if the INC endorsement pushes through.

"The INC has a pragmatic pick of candidate for president. That's their own; they have the right to choose whoever they feel would help them," Casiño said in Isabela.

He added: "They picked Estrada in 1998 and he won. Now if the INC will finally go for GMA, she will be a sure winner."

Casiño said even Bayan Muna's party-list candidates had been wooing the INC and the El Shaddai for their endorsements, "but not actively pursuing their votes."

"If they want to support us, we will be very grateful to them," he said. "We are [hoping] to be chosen, but for a debt of gratitude. *Ayaw namin na may kapalit.* That is not our practice." ***With a report from Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Chinoy upstart threatens to end Zamboanga dynasty

From page A1

ing to reporters gathered at his late mother's sprawling house. "There is so much money flowing in this election, it's incredible."

The target of his ire is independent candidate Wee Dee Ping (also known as Le Peng Wee), a rags-to-riches ethnic Chinese businessman who Lobregat says is trying to buy the mayor's job by bribing officials and flouting poll rules.

There are whispers from Lobregat's camp that Wee's money comes from illegal drugs and not just from the small business empire he has built on selling seaweed extract.

Wee, a round-faced 59-year-old whom campaign bills describe as "A Man of Action," is a former point man of deposed President Joseph Estrada in the city and government consultant in the negotiations for the release of European and Malaysian hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf.

He laughs off the allegations as "black propaganda" from a family that mastered money politics long ago.

Welcome to Philippine elections at the local level.

Colorful characters

The focus may be on the race for the presidency, but the elections that most directly affect the average Filipino will be fought ferociously by 50,000 or so candidates seeking the jobs of mayor, governor and councilor.

There is no shortage of colorful characters, and allegations of cheating are par for the course long before polling day.

Beneath the veneer of Western-style democracy, families who have lorded over areas since Spanish colonial times dominate the process, money flows into places it shouldn't and the ubiquitous "black propaganda" drowns out policy discussion.

From the Marcoses in the Ilocos Norte to the Osmeñas of Cebu and the Muslim royal clans in Mindanao, hundreds of wealthy families keep a grip on local power, helping to secure their business interests from the vagaries of politics.

The candidates for president need their support.

"They say politics is all local," Lobregat, 56 and a member of Congress for six years, told Reuters as a caged tropical bird squawked in the background.

"Most of the time it would be the national candidates who would need the push from the local candidates," he said. A day later, Lobregat ended any doubt over his loyalties by posing for pictures with visiting film star Fernando Poe Jr., who is trying to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Matriach lives on

Maria Clara Lobregat, who died in January at 82, was a classic matriarch whose presence is still felt. A picture of her matronly figure peers out from behind her son on campaign posters, just in case the city's 600,000 residents forget her.

"Nothing is handed down. For me, it's not a dynasty, it's a legacy," Celso said.

Even Maria Clara's famous ability to bring home the bacon from Manila in the form of development projects has not been enough to lift most people out of poverty.

Tainted by Mindanao's trouble with Muslim rebels and just across the water from island strongholds of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group, Zamboanga is too scary for most investors or tourists.

Beautiful beach but empty

Near the city, a beach of pink sand is as empty as it is beautiful. Beggars roam the roads. On one recent morning, a young boy was sprawled face down on the dusty main street.

Wee says he knows all about poverty.

At his plush house, he hands out five volumes of news clippings about him and his thoughts, together with a moving account of his life—a rare tale of Philippine social mobility.

From humble beginnings selling ice drops and milk, it says, the son of Chinese immigrants rose to become the city's pre-eminent businessman by tapping the potential of seaweed.

His links with Malaysian business are viewed with suspicion by Lobregat, who says Wee's campaign is financed by foreigners.

"The Lobregats don't want investors to come in," Wee said. "If I'm the mayor, I'll go to Malaysia to invite them to come in so we'll have no problem with employment here."

Colonial mentality

Wee's campaign slogan—"It's time for a change"—would seem to have appeal given Zamboanga's deep problems.

But poverty has yet to translate into fundamental political change in Zamboanga City or at the national level.

Some call it a colonial mentality—a hangover from three centuries of Spanish rule, half a century of American domination and a few years of Japanese occupation.

"We took hundreds of years to get where we are now," said a Western diplomat in Manila, referring to his country. "We can't expect the Philippines to get there overnight."

On the streets of Zamboanga, where people still speak Chabacano, a mixture of Spanish and regional languages, the Lobregats are widely regarded as natural rulers.

Nearest the kitchen

"We don't mind the family thing because we know them and their quirks," said Roger Gacayan, a 36-year-old who works for a taxi firm. "His mother did a lot for us." Gacayan said he was offered cash to vote for a certain candidate last election and fully expected to get bribed again.

"That's just the way politics is here," he said. ***Reuters***

Lacson: No intention of coming back with his body on his shield

From page A1

Lacson hugged her by the neck.

Soon the mob swallowed him.

"That's the reason I am not giving up (my bid for the presidency)," he said. A warrior doesn't give up the fight. "We prepared for so long for this ... and we are pretty confident."

'Like an atom bomb'

The elections only a week away, Lacson and rival candidate Fernando Poe Jr. were under mounting pressure to unite and stave off opposition defeat at the polls.

"If we are able to unite them, it's going to come like an atom bomb," said San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, a Lacson ally involved in the unification talks.

But the pair must decide soon, Zamora said, adding: "I don't want to give it more than a couple of days."

Divided loyalties

Residents in two other Metro Manila areas that Lacson barnstormed on Monday were clearly hostile to President Macapagal-Arroyo. But they were also divided on who between Poe and Lacson should give way to boost opposition chances.

"*Kailangan magkaisa sila. Kung hindi, dadamputin sila pareho sa kangkungan* (They have to unite or they will both end up in the cabbage patch)," said Boy Agbayani, 48, a shopowner on Road 7, West Crame.

Many in that San Juan neighborhood remain loyal to its former mayor, the ousted President Joseph Estrada, and clearly lean toward Poe.

But the area is also peopled by former policemen who had been impressed by Lacson's strong-arm leadership when he was national police chief under Estrada.

Salute from a window

Residents cheered when Lacson stepped out of his vehicle and marched two long blocks in blistering heat to speak on a wooden stage.

"*Eto na si* (Here comes) 71," loyal media team leader Gerry de Belen said into his cell phone, alerting another member of Lacson's staff posted elsewhere. "71" is the code name for Lacson.

A former policeman leaned out of a balcony and gave his former chief a salute. Housewives in dusters nearly fell upon each other in a struggle to kiss their idol.

Lacson quickly went into the heart of the residents' concern.

"We are trying hard to unify the opposition in order to drive out the occupant of Malacañang," he told the crowd. "If we cannot agree, we would like to leave it up to you to choose who between the two us you would like to vote for."

It was the same message he gave an hour earlier to residents of Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong.

FPJ country

An economically depressed area with about 35,000 voters, Addition Hills is clearly Poe country.

Seeing reporters jump out of a blue van plastered with posters of Lacson, retired hospital collector Ramon Juerra asked: "*Nagkaayos na po ba sila* (Have they settled it)?"

The graying man was, of course, referring to the senator and the movie star.

Town Councilor Ed Panoso pitched in. "*Sana ho, magkaisa na sila. Kung mahal ni Ping ang bayan, pagbibigyan niya si FPJ* (We hope they will unite. If Ping loves the country, he will give way to FPJ)."

Panoso was unstoppable.

"*Kung magkakaisa sila, landslide si FPJ. Pag natalo si FPJ, kasalanan ni Lacson* (If they unite, it will be a landslide for FPJ. If FPJ loses, it will be Lacson's fault)."

A dear son

Other people manning a sidewalk cubicle used by Poe supporters as headquarters said they were originally for Lacson. But believing the actor had better chances of beating Ms Macapagal, they switched allegiance.

Regardless of their loyalties, residents of Block 7 in Addition Hills gave Lacson a welcome fit for a dear son coming home.

"'*Yan na siya* (He's here)!" a man shouted.

"*Gwapo talaga* (He's really handsome)," a woman gushed as Lacson appeared, wearing a vest over a sleek red shirt.

People stumbled out of their hovels to gawk. Children stretched out their hands. Women pressed their bodies close to him.

The man in red raised a clenched fist.

On a stage installed at the edge of a basketball court, a woman barker hailed Lacson as the man who would "save our President Estrada."

Rally coordinator Bella Mendoza, taking over, taunted the women in the crowd.

"*Sino ang nagsasabing si Ping Lacson ay bakla ... Yung mga hindi niya napagbigyan* (Who is saying that Ping Lacson is gay? Those whom he did not yield to)!" Mendoza shouted.

The crowd, now swollen to about 500, loved it.

Seeing his boss sweating, an aide slipped his hand into a side pocket, found a blue towel and handed it to Lacson, who used it to wipe the sweat off his face.

Bosomy reminder

The more daring among the women sneaked up the stage. Soon, Lacson had his hands full signing T-shirts, paper fans, shoulder bags, umbrellas.

One mother thrust her baby into Lacson's face. He signed the child's bonnet.

Lanie Pavellano, 17, was more audacious. She muttered something to Lacson and he broke into laughter.

What did she tell him?

"*Sabi ko dito siya mag-sign sa dibdib ko* (I told him to write his name across my breasts)," she said with a coquettish smile. "*Napatawa siya* (He laughed)."

It was one wish that Lacson did not oblige. He signed Lani's T-shirt, all right, but scrawled his name on its lower part, safely away from her bosom.

Hard day's night

In the Lexus taking him to his late appointment, Lacson mused about the day now ending.

"I always look forward to the evening because that is the end of the day and I'll be able to rest," he said. "But that means also looking forward to the next day."

Some candidates recoil at the thought of having to struggle through another day on the road, another day of scalding heat, another day of rallies and speeches, which say the same things one said on the first day of the campaign, 85 days ago.

"Your adrenalin isn't pumping, your morale is low, and it seems like it's going to be a long, long day," Lacson said. "But as you go on, you see encouraging signs of support, not only enthusiastic support but very intense support. People are listening to our speeches, people are gathering around us. And that's a typical day in our campaign."

Trojan horse

Lacson has very clear ideas about how he will rule this fragmented country of 85 million people: stamp out corruption, lure investors, seek peace with rebel groups—except the Abu Sayyaf—on condition they respect Philippine sovereignty and abandon their goal of overthrowing the government.

There will be no talks with the Abu Sayyaf. They should either be killed or captured in battle, forced to surrender or convinced that kidnapping and beheading people are not Islam's way. In Lacson's words: "They should be erased from the surface of the earth."

Yes, he would use an iron fist to govern but only to crack the inept and corrupt bureaucracy into shape—"no matter who gets hurt"—and not curb civil liberties.

It may sound Machiavellian but that is the only way to get the government running efficiently, if one is a leader, he said.

Set an example and exact obedience, inspire fear if you cannot inspire love.

He denied allegations that he is a Trojan horse embedded in the opposition ranks by Malacañang to divide them by not uniting with Poe.

In exchange, so the talk goes, the murder charges he is facing over the 1995 alleged rubout of Kuratong Baleleng kidnappers would be dropped.

Warrior's destiny

"*Ang nagsususi sa kanya ay Malacañang* (Malacañang is the one winding him up)," an opposition leader told the INQUIRER.

Lacson dismissed the allegation as pure canard. "I'm not withdrawing, simply because I know I can govern this country well," he said. "I can save this country from further deteriorating."

And he will not be beholden to Filipino-Chinese businessmen bankrolling his campaign. They were helping him because of his success in smashing kidnap gangs preying on rich Filipino-Chinese families, he said.

"*Bayad na sila* (They have been paid)," Lacson said.

He believes in destiny but isn't quite sure if being president is his destiny.

"If it's not meant to be, then I should be prepared to accept my fate. I won't be frustrated that much if I don't make it simply because I've prepared my mind that, perhaps, that is God's will."

And if that is how it will turn out in the end, then Panfilo Lacson, code name 71, the man in red shirt, the soldier from Imus, Cavite, the senator, the man who would be President will be coming home—like the Greek warriors of old—lying on his shield, after all.

TAPAT SA BAYAN? MAY PANININDIGAN?

The 'Fortunes' of Loren and Tony

Titling issue hounds Batangas islands

RIC R. PUOD
and ANNIE RUTH C. SABANGAN
Senior Reporters

(First of 5 parts)

Fortune gives many too much, but none enough.
—Martial, *Epigrams*

IT TAKES two to tango, but Sen. Loren Legarda may not dance with her husband when it comes to his busi-
[illegible]

Loren classmate wishes her defeat

By Romie A. Evangelista

What does Loren Legarda's forme
Salvador, have against the opposition
In a letter to Legarda, Salvado
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Legarda and Salvador are
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PULONG CUTAD.
Wawa shoreline alleg

The "crying lady" and the "political prostitute."

Loren linked to Saycon plot?

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

A military official linked opposition vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda yesterday to a recently uncovered plot to overthrow President Arroyo.

Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, Armed Forces civil relations chief, said Legarda had met with civil society leader Pastor "Boy" Saycon at his residence in Makati City apparently to discuss a plan to take over the government.

"Nakikipaglaro si Loren sa lahat (Loren is playing with everybody)," Corpus told **The STAR** in an interview. "She was monitored in one of the meetings with Saycon."

The plot involved the newly formed "Kawal Filipino," whose alleged coup attempt was foiled with the arrest of five Army captains last week.

Corpus described Legarda as a "political prostitute" who would do everything "even to the point of selling

Turn to Page 6

Loren From Page 1

the country" just to gain power.

"Sobra siya," he said. "She is a political prostitute. *Ipagbibili niya ang lahat pati ang bansa."*

Last week, the Kawal Filipino demanded the resignation of Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita whom it a
machinery to s
among them pr
Poe Jr., Raul Ro

At least 10 Army captains have volunteered to provide information to the National Bureau of Investigation and Army investigators to strengthen the charges of sedition to be filed against Saycon.

At Malacañang, Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye cleared Vice President Teofisto Guingona of involvement in any alleged plot to destabilize the government.

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ang magpapanatili ng katatagan ng ating bansa (He knows how to maintain the country's stability)."

"Sobra siya," he said. "She is a political prostitute. *Ipagbibili niya ang lahat pati ang bansa."*

Karapat-dapat ba siya?

Katipunan Para sa Demokratikong Reporma (KADRE)

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METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 8 22 25 26 37 39

Metro bets all set for one final pitch

By Luige del Puerto

LOCAL candidates are set to make their final pitch before thousands of supporters and undecided voters today and tomorrow, the last day of the campaign period.

In Marikina City, opposition mayoral bet Sonny Parsons and his entire ticket would speak tonight at the Sto. Nino Softball Stadium, beside the Marikina River.

Parsons said it would be a star-studded *miting de avance*.

"My dream for the city is to have lower taxes and more jobs. This is my message to residents," he said over the phone.

Continuity

Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando is expected to answer the actor-turned-politician the next day, at the heart of Tumana, the city's poorest district.

Fernando's message is continuity—not only of her family's grip over the city but also of President Macapagal-Arroyo's hold over the country.

Her party, the Kabayani Team, is an ally of the administration Lakas-Christian and Muslim Democrats.

It is but fitting for the mayor to bring her campaign to the resettlement site. Tumana, a place of hope and despair, symbolizes the city's bid to rid itself of squatters.

Crime rate is high in the district, where the city's anti-narcotics operations are also concentrated.

San Juan

In San Juan, Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito's campaign culminates with a torch parade around the city at 6 p.m., and a huge political caucus at the town plaza at 7 p.m.

Ejercito, son of deposed President Joseph Estrada by actress Guia Gomez, has been vigorously campaigning for his vice-mayor, Leonardo "Boy" Celles and his councilors.

Celles is facing an uphill battle against Philip Cezar, whose hands were raised by the ousted president, and Councilor Rolando Bernardo, a long-time ally of the Estrada family.

Ejercito's little-known challenger, Erick San Juan, has scheduled his *miting de avance* at the Pinaglabanan Shrine at 4 p.m.

But Laywer Roman Romulo, who is running for Congress in Pasig City, already held his *miting de avance* on May 1.

"It turned out to be a correct decision. There are places we have not gone to and residents want to hear what we have to say," he said.

Mandaluyong

Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr., who is running for Congress, and his ticket would also hold their final caucus either on Acacia Lane or Martinez Street in Barangay Welfareville, one of his strongest bases, on Saturday night.

Challenging Abalos is Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo, also the son of a former Mandaluyong mayor. His team is expected to hold a caucus either today or tomorrow.

VOTE-RICH SITE
Scavengers mine for scraps and leftover food in the Smokey Mountain dump site in Tondo. The site has become a crucial battleground for the vote-seeking candidates in the May 10 elections. AP

Noli accuser an impostor, says lawyer

THE MAN accusing vice presidential candidate Noli "Kabayan" De Castro of pocketing donations for his limbless nephew is an impostor using the name of the New People's Army to extort money from businessmen in Mindoro, according to the candidate's lawyer.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, lawyer Jesse Andres said records gathered from the Philippine National Police in Calapan, Mindoro Oriental, revealed that Nilo Baculo, an uncle of Peter Barcelona, was arrested on Nov. 3, 2002 for allegedly trying to extort money from businessman Florentino Villas.

In his complaint dated Nov. 3, 2003, Villas, 64, said Baculo, pretending to be an NPA member, phoned him on Nov. 2, 2002 and threatened to harm his family if he refuse to pay revolutionary taxes amounting to P150,000. Villas added Baculo also demanded three armalite rifles from him.

They reported the call to police, which immediately launched an entrapment operation against Baculo the following day.

Baculo was released on Nov. 20, 2002 after posting P24,000 bail. His case is still pending.

Militant groups back 5 Senate aspirants

By Tarra Quismundo

SIX MILITANT party-list groups yesterday gave their nods and a promise of more than 1 million command votes to five senatorial candidates.

But the groups chose not to root for any candidate for President and vice president, as none of the aspirants for these posts passed what they described as a tedious screening process.

Metro Manila chapters of militant party-list groups Anak ng Bayan, Anakpawis, Bayan Muna, Gabriela, Migrante and Suara Bangsamoro pledged support to candidates who surpassed their tests of principle and program.

Among them are K-4 Coalition bets, lawyer Pia Cayetano, actor Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., basketball legend and reelectionist Sen. Robert Jaworski, independent candidate and former Senator Heherson Alvarez, and Carlos Padilla who is running under presidential aspirant Panfilo Lacson.

The five were picked out of 33 senatorial candidates who had met with the party-list group leaders to explain their platform and stand on issues.

All political aspirants, including the six presidential and four vice presidential candidates, had to measure up to a criteria that included having a clear platform, a program on uplifting the nation's social condition, and an "untainted personal and political reputation."

"This (endorsement) is not imposed upon our members. This is based on which are the principled candidates," said Gabriela's Malou Turalde, adding the chosen ones had programs parallel to what the groups are pushing for.

Among these issues are the wage increase, better health services, protection of women, and good governance.

The groups' endorsement was announced in a press conference yesterday in Manila.

For the posts where they did not name any bets, Anakpawis nominee Crispin Beltran said that their members could decide for themselves.

Alvarez, former senator and former environment and natural resources secretary, said the endorsement was important to an independent candidate.

"This is an affirmation of my faith and belief in the principles that I have been fighting for," said Alvarez, who fought through martial law and served as a senator and Cabinet member.

Planas, Defensor trade barbs

Conflict stems from 'substitution of official bets' issue

WITH only two days left before the May 10 elections, the race for legislature in Quezon City's third district heats up as candidates continue to trade barbs.

Mike Planas, who is running under the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino slate, is claiming that the substitution of his opponent, Matias Defensor Jr., as official candidate of the K-4 Coalition is spurious.

Planas questioned Defensor's signature, which appeared both in his and his daughter, Rep. Maite Defensor's, Certificates of Candidacy.

But in a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Defensor said he substituted for his daughter because the latter withdrew from the congressional race to attend to her child's needs.

Defensor explained that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) upheld his candidacy as official and legitimate through an en banc resolution issued on April 20, recognizing his legal status as a substitute candidate.

"I have complied with every requirement there is to legitimize my candidacy. That is why there is no question that I am an official congressional bet in my district. This black propaganda is a desperate move of the Planas camp to hide their own liabilities," Defensor said.

Defensor added that his signature appearing in his daughter's COC is by virtue of a special power of attorney granted him by the congresswoman during her stay in the United States.

But Planas told the INQUIRER that the Comelec, through a promulgation, has already recognized his withdrawal as a candidate for the city council even before he filed his candidacy for the congressional post. *Tina Santos, Melodie Tumambing and Mel Lawrence de Guzman*

Tanong ng Bayan
NoInk TV
Ngayong Alas-10 Ng Gabi

Bantayan ang balota!
Teka, paano nga ba?

Ang pagbantay sa balota ay bahagi ng karapatang bumoto. Pero paano natin gagawin ito? Ang sagot ng tatlong dalubhasa—Damaso Magbual, Namfrel chairman para sa NCR; Bro. Clifford Sorita, secretary-general ng PPCRV; at Atty. Lawrence Fortun, executive director ng National Institute for Policy Studies—mamayang alas-10 ng gabi, sa ABC.
(May replay sa Lunes, araw ng halalan, alas-8 ng umaga.)

Pundits see tight mayoralty race in QC

By Tina Santos

MOST political observers believe that the race for the mayoral post in Quezon City would be a neck-and-neck fight between an incumbent, who relies on his performance for the past three years, and a veteran politician, who is banking on familiarity.

May 10 would see Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr., who is seeking a second term, battling it out with former three-term mayor Ismael Mathay Jr.

But Belmonte, who had a short stint as a House Speaker and played the role as manager of the prosecution panel in the impeachment trial, expressed confidence that his performance and track record will decide the elections.

Belmonte, who is running under the administration party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, takes pride that his administration has significantly improved public health, education and welfare assistance while implementing much needed infrastructure projects, like schools, health centers, concreting roads and creation of public parks.

On the other hand, Mathay, who is running under the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino slate, believes that his being in public service for the past 35 years would earn him votes to regain the city's top post, which he held from 1992 to 2001.

"My exposure would be my edge. I know the old as well as the new residents of the city. I know very well what their needs are," Mathay said, adding that the poor condition of the people "being ignored by the current administration" has prompted him to run again.

METROBRIEFS

Wrong target

A MAN who allegedly tried to shoot his brother-in-law missed his target, and hit his sister instead. Police said the suspect, Francisco Fernando, 41, had a confrontation with Virgilio Rosacena, his brother-in-law, around 10:30 p.m. Wednesday at their house in Caloocan City. Fernando allegedly drew a revolver and shot Virgilio but missed. The bullet instead hit the neck of his sister, Maritess, 36, who was then trying to pacify them. She was brought to a hospital but died there while undergoing treatment, police said. The suspect fled. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Bagong Tao rally

THE BAGONG Tao Movement (BTM), a party-list group competing in the May 10 elections, will hold its *miting de avance* at 4 p.m. today at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City. The BTM is a coalition of the Triskelion Youth Movement, Marikina Triskelion Affairs Organization, Lawyers against Monopoly and Poverty and various nongovernment organizations in the country. The party-list group believes that people need to change their basic attitudes, beliefs and vision first before there can be lasting changes in government and society.

Editor killed

AN EDITOR of the newspaper Malaya was killed after she was hit by a speeding passenger bus Tuesday night in Quezon City, a police report said. The victim, Carmelina Monroy, 58, who worked as foreign news and lifestyle editor, suffered fatal head and body injuries, police said. She was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Fairview General Hospital. The bus driver, Clifford Van Pascual, 24, immediately surrendered to authorities. Tina Santos

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF SPI TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

All shareholders of SPI Technologies, Inc. ("SPI") are hereby notified that on April 29, 2004, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") approved **THLPV ACQUISITION, L.P.**'s ("the Bidder") request for an extension of the period for the Tender Offer of SPI Shares ("Shares"). Please note the following modifications:

	Original	Extension
Tender Offer Period	9:00 a.m. of April 12, 2004 to 3:00 p.m. of May 7, 2004	9:00 a.m. of April 12, 2004 to 3:00 p.m. of May 14, 2004
Cross Date	May 20, 2004	May 26, 2004
Payment Date	After 3:00 p.m. on May 20, 2004	After 3:00 p.m. on May 26, 2004

Pursuant to SRC Rule 19 (Tender Offer), which imposes only one closing and completion of a tender offer, please note that even those who have tendered their SPI Shares during the original Tender Offer Period shall be paid after 3:00 p.m. on May 26, 2004.

As of May 4, 2004, Shares committed to be sold and tendered to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Depository") total 266,262,577 Shares, or approximately 85% of SPI's issued and outstanding Shares.

All other Terms of the Tender Offer shall remain the same.

For further inquiries, please contact **Platon Martinez Flores San Pedro & Leaño** at (63-2) 867-4696 or **Ms. Nilaida Enriquez** of the Depository at (63-2) 849-8888.

Romulo gets Salonga nod for Congress bid

By Luige del Puerto

IF POLITICS is addition, then it has been a good week for lawyer Roman Romulo, who is running for Congress in Pasig City.

Days after the Liberal Party adopted him as its bet, former Senate President Jovito Salonga endorsed Romulo, saying the lawyer has the competence and the moral integrity to represent the city in Congress.

Salonga is himself a former Pasig congressman. He was with Romulo's father, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, in the Senate. He voted against the retention of the US bases in the Philippines; Romulo voted for it.

"Why I am supporting Atty. Roman Romulo? Because he is the fittest... I see three characteristics in him—competence, moral integrity and sincerity to serve the poor," Salonga said in a letter faxed to the INQUIRER.

Romulo was recently in the news when Robert "Dodot" Jaworski accused the administration of playing two hands in Pasig City.

Jaworski, the official congressional candidate of Lakas-Christian and Muslim Democrats, claimed Romulo got 30,000 Philhealth cards, the controversial health program of the administration.

He said Romulo's camp allegedly obtained the cards through his father, the Executive Secretary.

Romulo countered that his camp has merely referred people to the "appropriate agencies" like the Office of the President, but has never personally distributed the cards himself.

Cops told: Enforce liquor ban strictly

NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Ricardo de Leon yesterday ordered all police units in Metro Manila to strictly implement the liquor ban on Election Day.

De Leon said the liquor ban is an integral part of the security measures they will impose to prevent election-related violence.

Under the imposed prohibition by the Commission on Elections (Comelec), all persons, including owners and managers of hotels and establishments, are prohibited from selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating drinks anywhere in the country starting 12 midnight of Sunday until 12 midnight of Monday.

Only hotels and establishments who have sought exemption through a written request, petition, or application, filed under oath with the regional election director, will be exempted from the ban.

Tina Santos

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

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Revised 2004 Edition of

COMMENTS ON THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE

By: Ruben E. Agpalo

The book pinpoints the different stages when and where "Dagdag Bawas" can be committed; it discusses, among others, the factual and legal issues that can arise during canvassing, the requirements of pre-proclamation controversies, as well as the forms required to be accomplished for the purpose; it also discusses post election disputes, such as election protests, cases involving *quo warranto*, and prosecution of election offenses. It cites new legislations and recent decisions of the Supreme Court on elections. The book will be of assistance to election lawyers, candidates, watchers, and those assigned to safeguard the will of the electorate and the rights of candidates in the counting of votes and in the canvassing of election returns.

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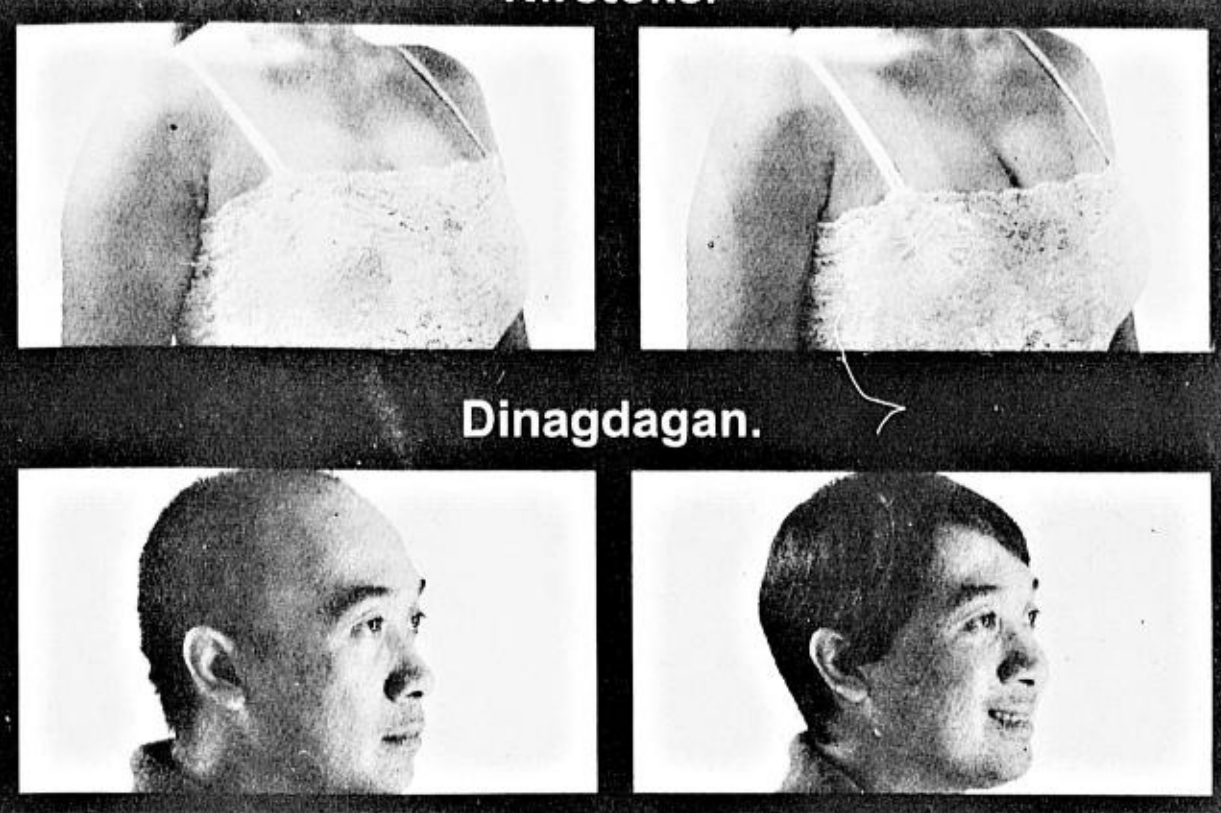

Dinagdagan.

Binawasan.

'Di tulad nito, wala nang dagdag-bawas sa boto mo.

Halalan 2004

Eleksyon na naman. 'Di piring ang ating mga mata sa mga pandarayang tulad ng dagdag-bawas. Dahil dito, 'di lalabas ang tunay na tinig ng tao.

Ngayon, sa Halalan 2004, may sistema ang Comelec laban sa dagdag-bawas.

Gagamit ng mga computers para makuha, at TV monitoring para mabantayan ang bilangan. May VSAT kung saan gagamit ng *satellite transmission* para masiguradong ligtas at mabilis ang pagpapadala ng boto sa lahat ng mga munisipyo at siyudad.

Ang mga ito'y paniguro ng Comelec para kung anong ibinoto ay siya ring bibilangin.

"Boto ating bantayan. Taumbayan, Comelec inyong tulungan upang makamtan malinis na halalan."

– Hon. Benjamin S. Abalos
Chairman, COMELEC

Commission on Elections

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For election results, visit www.halalan2004.net.ph, or text Result to 2993 for Globe and 386 for Smart.

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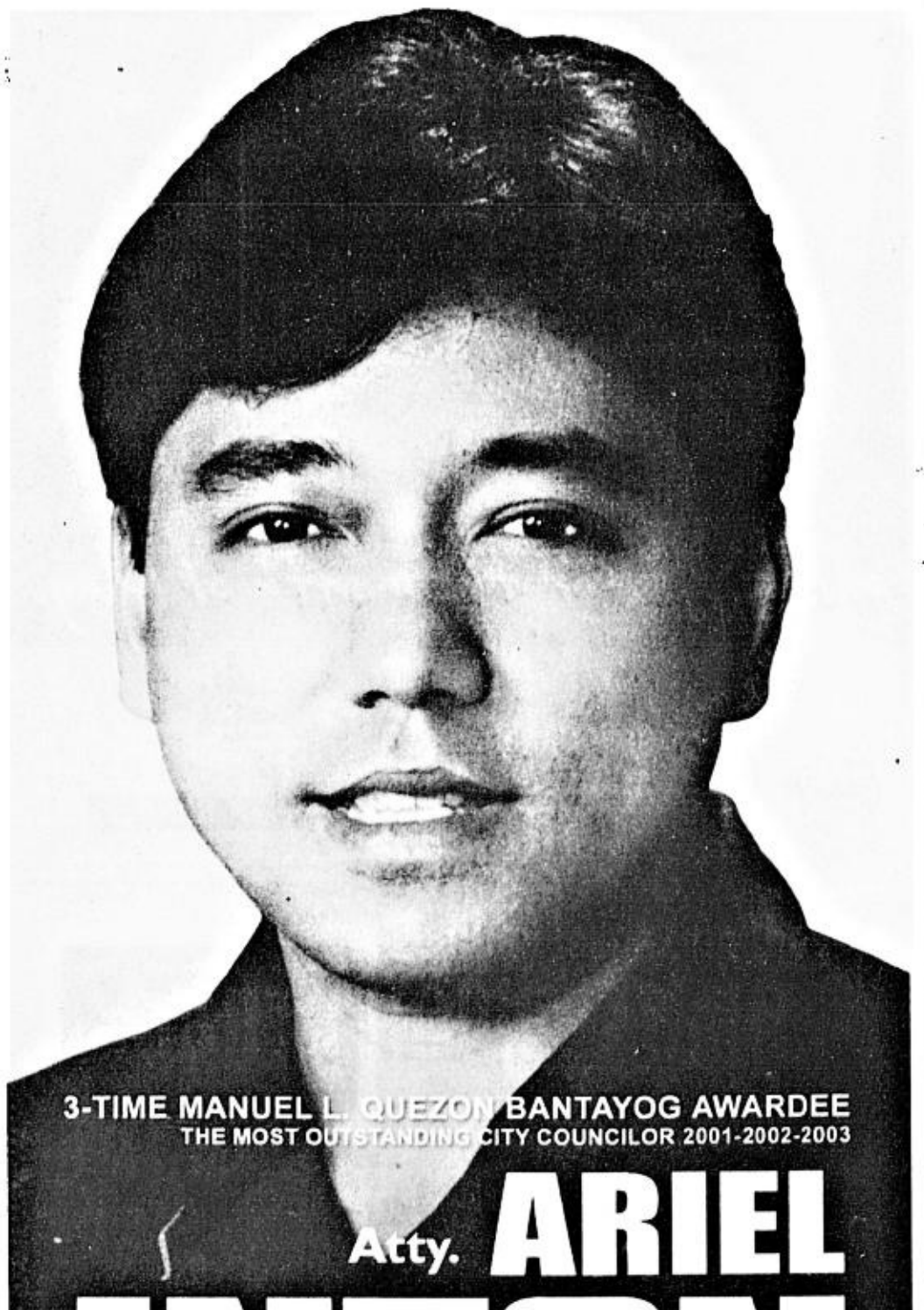

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SENATOR AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.

Principal author and "Father" of the Local Government Code reports to all barangay officials

Dear Kapitan at mga Kagawad:

As the principal author and "Father" of the Local Government Code, I would like to report on my continuing efforts to empower local government units (LGUs) and bring more funds and development to your barangay.

From the time the Local Government Code became law in 1992 up to 2004, over 1 TRILLION PESOS had been remitted to all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays of the Philippines as their internal revenue allotment (IRA) shares. More particularly, over its twelve-year existence, the Code brought LGUs the following amounts:

Provinces	P253.02 Billion
Cities	P253.02 Billion
Municipalities	P374.04 Billion
All Barangays	P220.03 Billion

The IRA is where the funding for your roads, bridges, community centers, schools, hospitals and all other LGU projects come from.

For the year 2003 alone, Barangay Alitao in Tayabas, Quezon, the smallest barangay in the Philippines with a population of only 19 people, received an IRA share of P228,528.00 that its barangay officials could use for their projects. Barangay 176 in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, the biggest barangay in the country with a population of 185,419 residents received an IRA share of P35.255 MILLION in 2003. Your barangay, which also receives a substantial IRA share, falls in between these two examples.

Prior to the Local Government Code, the BARANGAY DID NOT HAVE ANY IRA SHARE. Moreover, provinces, cities and municipalities had to beg Malacañang for funding which was always lacking in view of their very small IRA shares. This is one of the reasons why I pushed for the passage into law of the Local Government Code. I wanted to empower LGUs and provide money to fund their projects without begging from central government. NOW, ALL BARANGAYS HAVE IRA SHARES FOR THEIR PROJECTS! Moreover, the yearly IRA of all LGUs have tremendously increased over the years:

YEAR	IRA
1992	20.30 Billion
1993	36.12 Billion
1994	46.31 Billion
1995	52.04 Billion
1996	56.59 Billion
1997	71.04 Billion
1998	80.99 Billion
1999	96.78 Billion
2000	111.77 Billion
2001	111.77 Billion (re-enacted budget)
2002	134.42 Billion
2003	141.00 Billion
2004	141.00 Billion (re-enacted budget)
Total Amount	1.10013 Trillion

Your IRA income should again have increased in 2004. However, this did not happen because the administration did not pass the 2004 budget.

Incidentally, I would also like to mention that the Supreme Court, in a case I filed against the Executive Secretary of then President Fidel V. Ramos, ruled in our favor and declared unconstitutional the practice of Malacañang of withholding the release of your LGU IRA shares. Today, under pain of being cited in contempt of court, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) must release IRA shares of LGUs within five days after end of every quarter.

Finally, let me mention that I filed SENATE BILL NO. 826, which (1) gives LGUs an increased IRA share of 50% (up from 40%) from all national taxes collected and not just from the internal revenue collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. This is projected to increase the present IRA your LGU is receiving by 70%; and (2) entitles barangay officials to retirement benefits and increased insurance coverage from the GSIS.

With your help and should I be re-elected to the Senate in the May elections, I will pursue the passage of these amendatory bills into law in the next Congress.

May I hear your views on how we could further empower LGUs and continue to bring progress to our country.

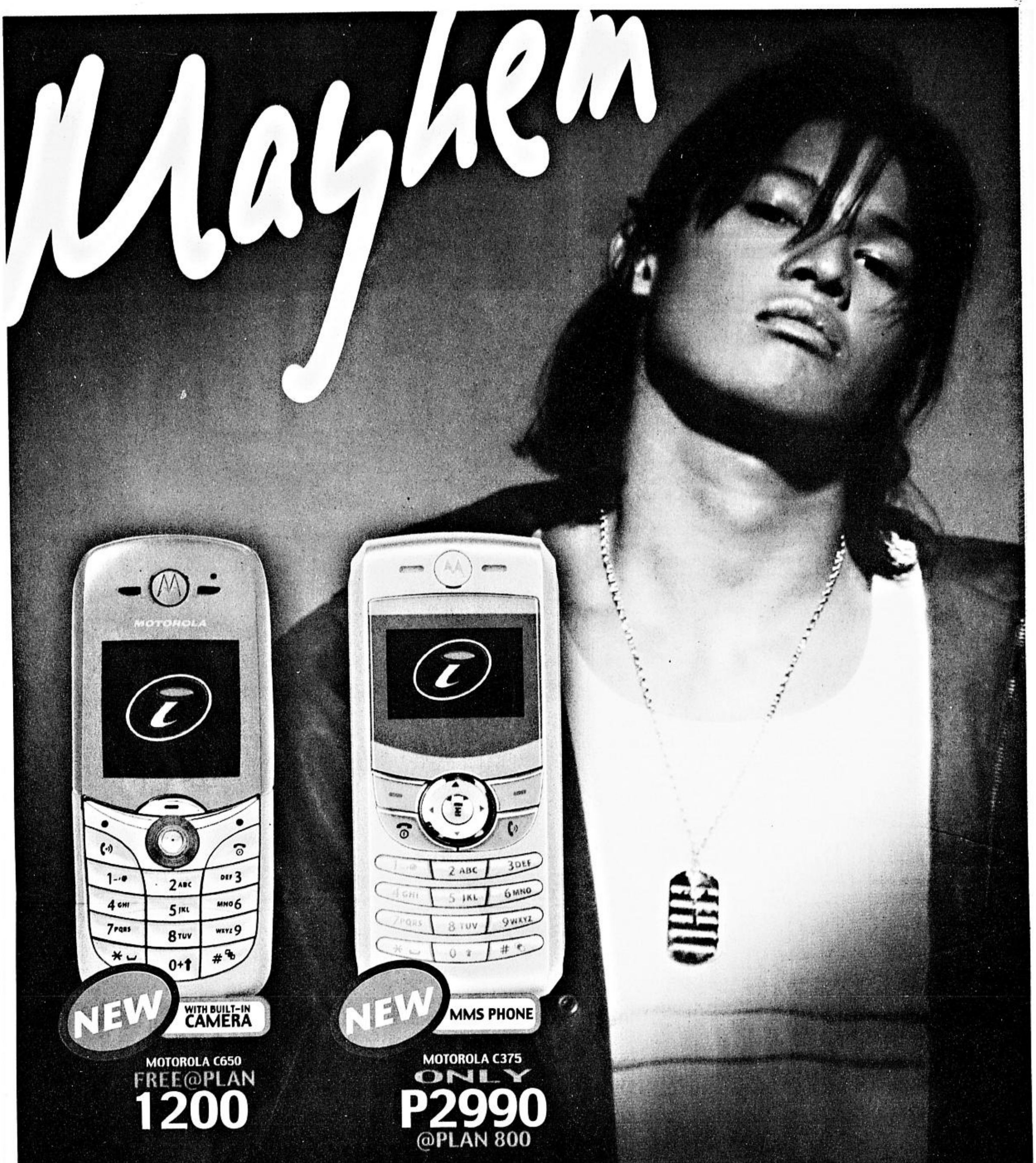
Maraming salamat po!

NENE PIMENTEL

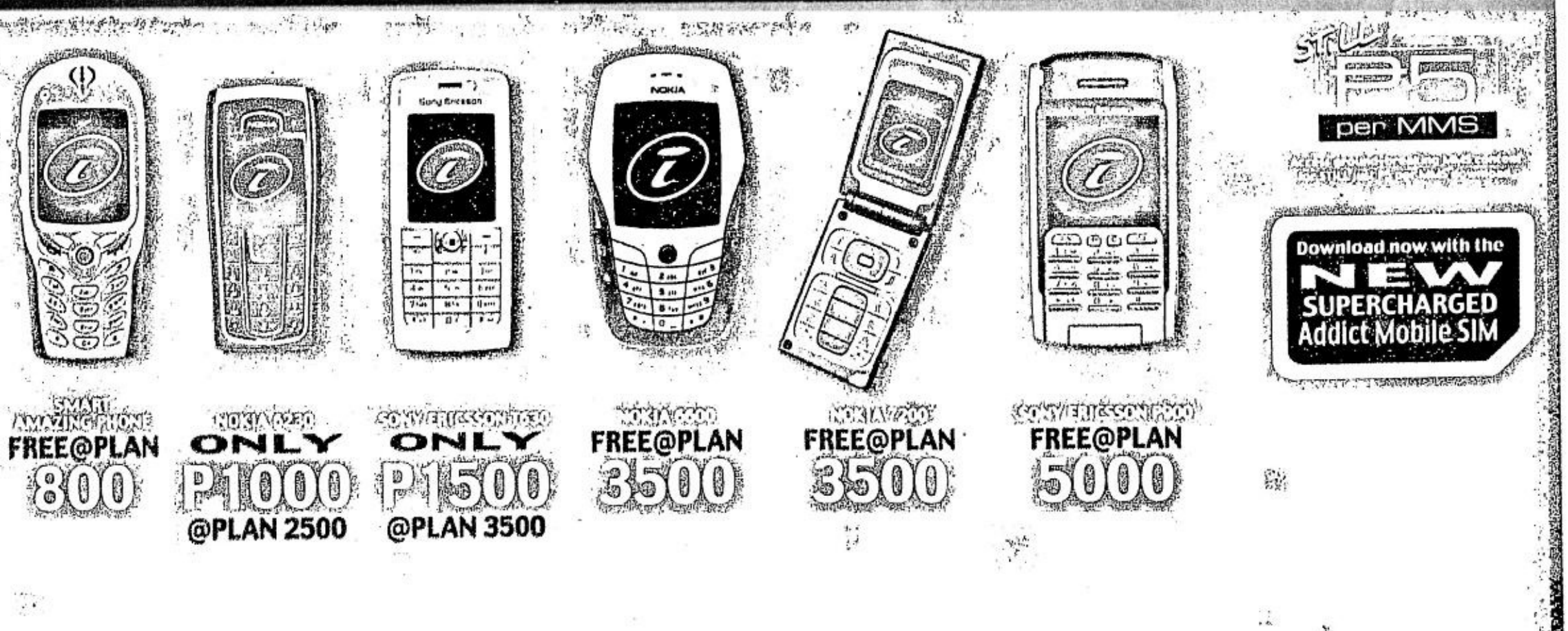
RE-ELECT SENATOR PIMENTEL
AMA NG BARANGAY

Paid for by NPSM 2004, Cacho-Gonzales Bldg., Legazpi Village, Makati City

Mayhem



Addict Mobile unleashes its new handset offerings for the month of May.



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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs - Heat vs Pacers, Eastern Second Round, 9 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports - A well-rested Indiana squad hosts a Miami team fresh off a grueling seven-game series.

NBA Greatest Games - Sonics vs. Bullets, Game 1, 1979 Finals; 12 noon; Solar Sports - In a rematch of the 1978 NBA Finals, Washington manages to steal Game 1 of the 1979 Finals at home as they take the lead with just seconds remaining, and hold on to win 99-97.

TENNIS: Telecom Italia Masters; 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.; Star Sports - It's down to the last 8 in this warm-up for the French Open.

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Pacquiao is trapped–Marquez

Pinoy challenger 7-5 pick over Mexican champ

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Manny Pacquiao thrilled to twin triumphs Wednesday. He totally beat the weigh scales, had a hearty lunch, then watched the San Antonio Spurs go up 2-0 in the NBA Western Conference semifinals.

Pacquiao, who has picked the Spurs over the Los Angeles Lakers, weighed 125 lb, one lighter than the featherweight limit, to close training under steaming conditions in this gaming and entertainment capital.

But glad as he was, Pacquiao will not like what Marquez has claimed that the Filipino boxing celebrity would be stepping into a trap when they clash for the world boxing featherweight kingship here Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila).

It's a fight he has long dreamed of, said Marquez, who also aims to restore Mexican boxing pride after it was shattered by Pacquiao's sensational conquest of the popular Marco Antonio Barrera last November.

MARQUEZ (left) strikes a fighting pose with the oddsmakers' fave, Pacquiao. AP

"After Barrera, they thought they had beaten the best guy and anybody will be easier," said Marquez as quoted by max.boxing.com. "But fighting me is not the same as fighting Barrera. They're in for a rude awakening."

Pacquiao had told the INQUIRER he expected Marquez to be an easier foe than Barrera.

This could be the result of a deception.

Marquez explained that, after Prince Naseem Hamed "shamelessly dreaded him for 22 months, while none of the top names would dare get into the ring with him," Pacquiao has gallantly provided what could be a stepping stone to gaining respect and full stardom.

"All Marquez has been dreaming of is one great fight, and this is it," the website said.

It was explained Barrera could never be used as a gauge because the humbled Mexican ring idol was too distracted and was only a shell of his old self when he fought Pacquiao.

Marquez, who checked in Tuesday to join Pacquiao among the guests in the 5,000-room MGM Grand, site of the title bout, did not brag about any built-in advantage.

After having talked ahead, he just smiled gra-

PACQUIAO/ A27

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Asistio grabs 2-stroke lead in Aspac golf

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Tonton Asistio of the Philippines fired a one-under-par 71 Wednesday to seize a two-stroke lead in boys' Class B after the rain-delayed second round of the 25th Asia-Pacific Junior Golf Championships.

The 14-year-old Asistio completed two trips over the soggy Dami Indah Golf and Country Club course with a 144 aggregate to lead Tsai Tsung Yu of Taiwan and Kim Jin Ho of Korea by two going into Thursday's final round.

Tsai, who shared the lead with Asistio and Indian Raghave Wahi in the opening round, scored another 73 while Kim matched par 72. Wahi proved to be a one-day wonder as he collapsed with an 84 and fell far behind at 157.

Jayvie Agojo submitted a respectable one-under 71 but still fell into a tie for fifth as Korean bets continued to dominate.

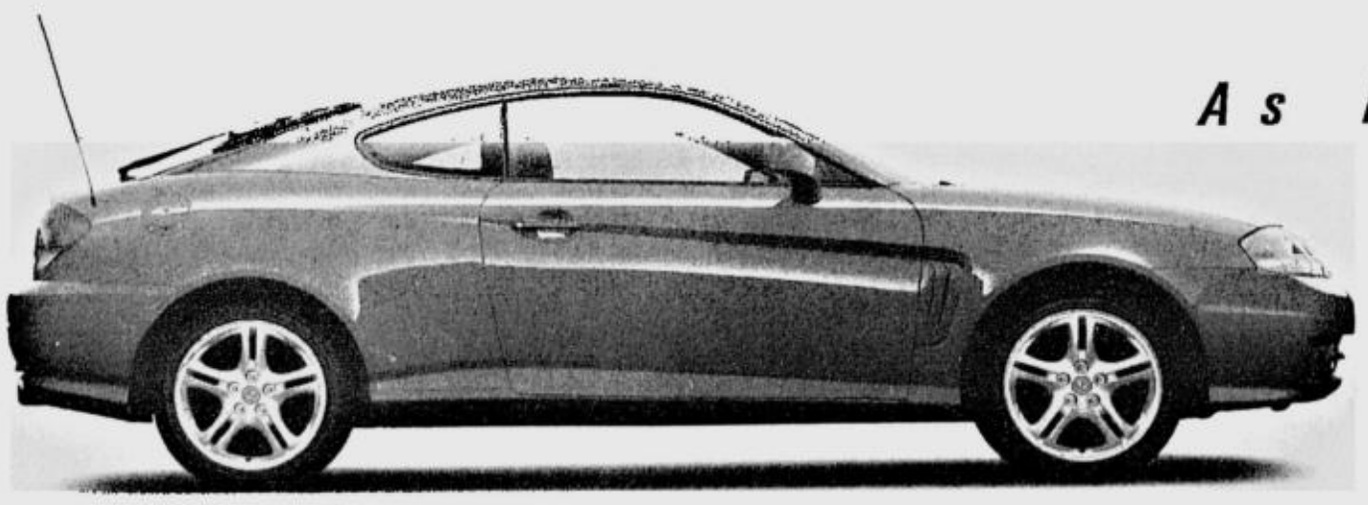
With her 141 total, Agojo starts the final round six shots behind solo leader Lee Il Hee who added a 67 to her 68 for a 135.

Another Korean, Oh Ji Young, was in second spot at 138 in a tie with Taiwan's Tseng Ya Nie while Nontaya Srisawang occupied solo fourth at 140.

Wolen Superal shot a 77 and found himself trailing by six in fourth place in boys' Class C with his 153 total.

ASISTIO: Young RP spearhead

As Fast As It Looks.



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Finally, a good Asian 9-ball draw for Django

By Roy Luarca

TAIPEI—Efren "Bata" Reyes believes fellow Filipino pool legend Francisco "Django" Bustamante stands a good chance of ending his slump in the fourth leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour here.

Reason: Bustamante landed in a relatively lighter bracket during yesterday's draw at the Holiday Inn Asiaworld Hotel.

Bustamante, currently the world's top-ranked player who hasn't gone past the quarterfinals in the country-hopping Tour, is predicted to breeze past Singaporean Tan Tiong Boon in today's round 1 at the Leader Creative Center.

Also bracketed with Bustamante were Thai Chatchawal Rutphae and Indon Nurdin and Taiwanese Chen Huang-wu, Wang Hung-hsung, Wu Chia-ching and Hung Lu-kung. "Django should be able to top his group and head into the semifinals," said Reyes. "This (draw) is a good break for him."

The 40-year-old Bustamante, who topped the Japan Open in January but is winless since then, said his shots and vaunted breaks are OK but the balls won't simply fall.

"I just need to string some good hits and my form would be back," said Bustamante.

Meanwhile, Reyes said he needs to play well to be in title contention again.

Paired with Indon Alwi in the opener, Reyes, winner of the Singapore and Ho Chi Minh legs before settling for a fourth place finish in the Hong Kong stop, expects trouble against either Alok Kumar of India or compatriot Lee Vann Corteza.

Also in Bata's group were Korea's Park Shin Young and Thailand's Tepwin Arunnath and Hong Kong's Fung Kwok Wai and Taiwan's Hsia Hui Kai.

Honeycutt triple cuts down SMB

By June Navarro

JERALD Honeycutt drained a triple with 2.6 ticks left to carry Talk 'N Text to a thrilling 89-87 victory over San Miguel Beer last night in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.

Honeycutt received a nifty pass from playmaker Jimmy Alapag and turned it into the game-clinching three-pointer, shoving the Phone Pals to their eighth win in 14 outings.

Dondon Hontiveros had an eye on the basket in the next play but he was smothered by the defensive blanket thrown by the Phone Pals as time ran out.

Their winning run stopped at four games, the Beermen still paced the conference with a 12-2 record overall. Coach Jong Uichico and his wards have four more games to wrap up their elimination campaign.

Honeycutt scored a team-high 29 points, Asi Taulava added 19 while Willie Miller and Victor Pablo had 16 and 13 each for the Phone Pals, who bounced back from a stinging defeat at the hands of the Alaska Aces last week.

Coming off a week-long break, the Phone Pals got off to a sizzling start, getting steady shooting from Honeycutt and Pablo that had them leading by as many as 11 points, 20-9.

The Beermen rattled off a series of fastbreak plays and a couple of jumpers, cutting the lead to 22-24 with some four minutes remaining before the Phone Pals surged to a 34-24 spread again entering the second quarter.

GAMES TOMORROW (*Philsports Arena*)
4:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Coca-Cola
6:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Ginebra

Just as the Phone Pals threatened to break the game wide open, the Beermen again struck with a rally of their own, outscoring their opponents, 15-7, midway into the second period.

Willie Miller's two free throws and a triple by Yancy De Ocampo restored order for the Phone Pals, who erected a 46-41 lead at halftime.

At the height of the Phone Pals' assault, Uichico was slapped a technical for incessantly protesting against the referee's call.

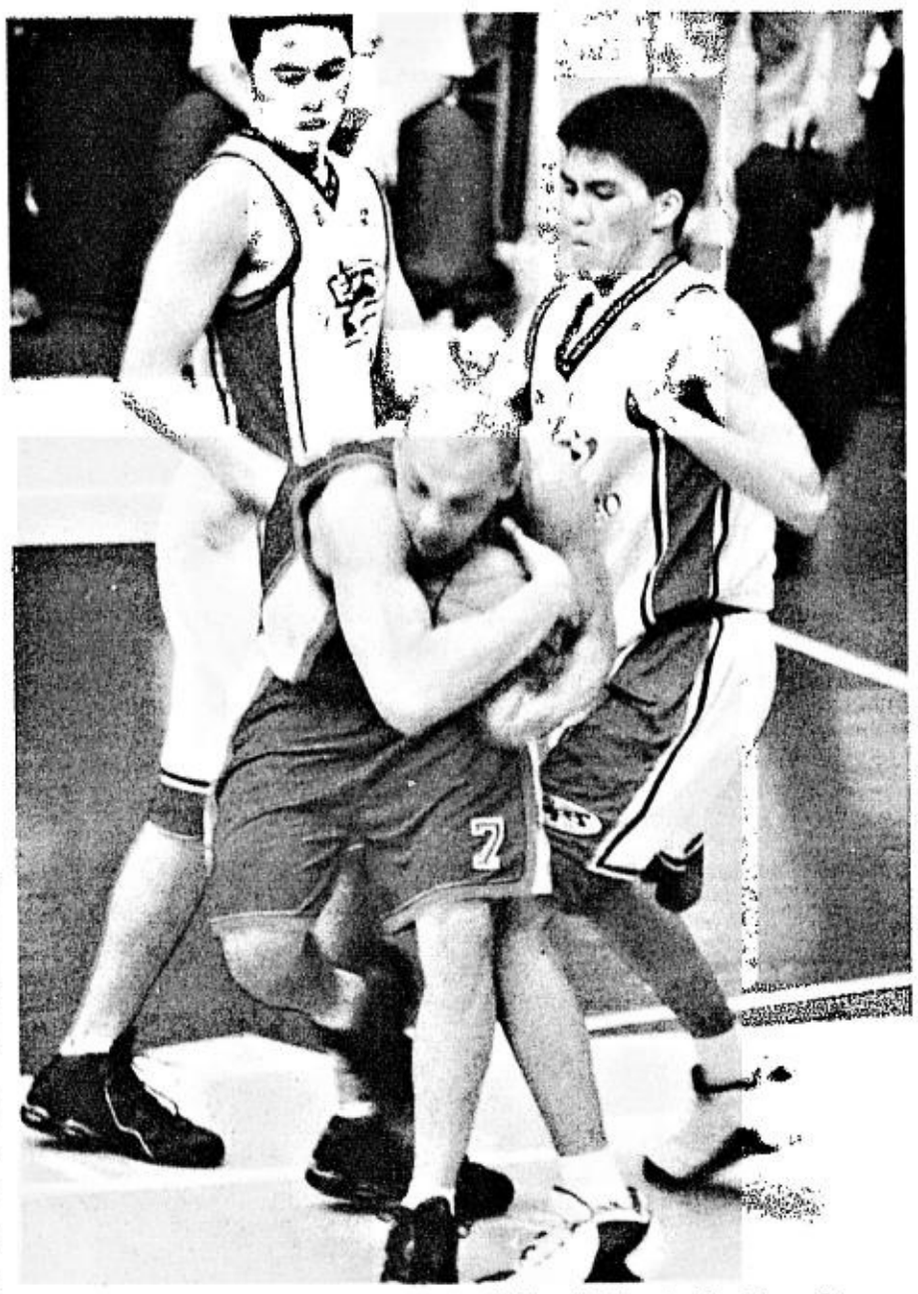
Art Long paced SMB with 32 points, with Danny Ildefonso adding 16 and Dondon Hontiveros 12.

The scores:

TALK 'N TEXT 89—Honeycutt 29, Taulava 19, Miller 16, Pablo 13, Belano 4, Alapag 3, De Ocampo 3, Telan 2.

SAN MIGUEL 87—Long 32, Ildefonso 16, Hontiveros 12, Singson 7, Belasco 6, Racela 4, Mente 2.

Quarters: 34-24, 46-41, 61-all, 89-87



JAM Alfad of Blu Star gives Larry Fonacier (left) and JC Intal of Lee Pipes-Ateneo no chance for a steal. ROGER MARGALLO

Hapee halts skid, downs Toyota Otis

GAMES TOMORROW (*Loyola Gym*)
2 p.m.—Toyota vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Lee Pipes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EMERSON Oreta provided the spark that sent defending champion Hapee Toothpaste off and running to a 62-56 triumph over Toyota Otis-Letran yesterday in the PBL 2nd Unity Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Oreta fired six of his game-high 16 points in the first period where the Teeth Sparklers readily imposed their will against the rookie team to snap out of their three-game losing streak.

Hapee improved to 4-4 to strengthen its semifinal bid even as Toyota Otis fell to 3-5.

Eric dela Cuesta escaped with a layup in the final 5.6 seconds as Blu Star Detergent nipped Lee Pipes-Ateneo, 65-64, in the second game.

The scores:

First Game: HAPEE 62—Oreta 16, Dualan 9, Mendoza 8, Juntilla 7, Omiping 7, Mercado 6, Dy 4, Macapagal 3, Moore 1, Tan 1, Napa 0, Cordero 0.

TOYOTA-OTIS 56—Enrile 15, Daa 13, Aldave 7, Dula 6, Bautista 5, Aban 4, Pinera 4, Santos 2, Codamon 0, Rodriguez 0, Anabo 0.

Quarters: 17-7, 26-14, 45-32, 62-56.

Second Game: BLU STAR 65—Villamin 14, Dela Cuesta 10, Alfad 10, Canaleta 8, Pascual 8, Mesina 5, Aquino 4, Victoria 2, Gamboa 2, Tagupa 2, Menor 0.

LEE PIPES 64—Tenorio 14, Buhia 14, Fonacier 13, Intal 10, Roldan 6, Basco 2, Manalo 2, Gelig 2, Kramer 1, Del Rosario 0, Membrere 0, Domingo 0.

Gymnast Ramirez captures 6 golds

UNIVERSITY of the East's Al Ramirez, a two-time Southeast Asian Games veteran, pocketed six gold medals in the recent Sacac Invitational Gymnastics tournament in Singapore.

The 18-year-old Ramirez led the six-man RP delegation to the team championship, winning the gold medals in the floor exercises, horse vault, pommel horse, parallel bars and individual all-around in the process.

Frederick Rocas also did his share, bagging three silver medals in the floor exercise, horse vault and in the individual all-around, while Jovin Estera, a mainstay of the national pool, brought home two silvers in the pommel horse and parallel bars.

Manuel Abad capped the Filipinos' hefty haul with a bronze in the individual all-around event.

The two other Filipino entries—Kris Lombrados and Cecilio Cabuenas Jr.—failed to land a medal but helped steer the Philippines to the team championship.

The Filipino gymnasts, who are all from UE, were accompanied by Santiago Ty, their head coach since 1985.

Jawo & Pia

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I HAVE shaken the hand of Jawo. But Pia? Not yet.

Jawo, of course, is Robert Jaworski, the living legend of basketball. And Pia is Pia Cayetano, daughter of the late Sen. Rene "Compañero" Cayetano.

Both are running for senator on May 10.

I wish they'd win so that Jawo could continue his sterling performance in the Senate while Pia could finish the job started by her father and likewise introduce her own programs that are, as far as I know, basically pro-people.

Pia's father was president of the nation's junior golf development program and, during his term, he had introduced innovations in tandem with the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP). You may not know this but Rene "Compañero" Cayetano was instrumental in the development of Jennifer Rosales, now the current toast of Philippine golf after scoring her breakthrough win in the US LPGA last weekend.

Pia, whose brother Ren-Ren I've known for years as a true gentleman on and off the golf course, has been strongly batting for cause-oriented programs and, only recently, has staged the smashingly successful "Bike-For-A-Cause" event going up Baguio. A lawyer just like her father Rene, Pia will surely also make a good lawmaker once she makes it to the Senate. I was, still is, a biker myself and Pia's "Bike-For-A-Cause" was a pitch for responsible biking in this country in dire need of people who value health-oriented projects.

As for Jawo, well, happily, in his six-year stint in the Senate, he did not only look after the welfare of the Filipino athlete but also distinguished himself as a genuine environmentalist and pro-poor. He authored bills providing for financial incentives and housing projects to athletes who made good in overseas campaigns. He secured lands for the landless, mostly in the Visayas and Mindanao, and provided housing for the homeless in many parts of the archipelago. And, yes, he was a major cog in the creation of the Clean Air Act that now provides for clean air and pollution-free surroundings. Plus, of course, Jawo's bill that ensured potable water for almost every household in many parts of the country, not to mention his numerous legislation for watershed protection and reforestation projects all over the land.

I have shaken Jawo's hand a thousand times and one maybe because, well, yes, Jawo and I have virtually been living the same life: Sports people we both are all these years. Even as we rarely see each other now after he had become senator in 1998—to be a senator of this republic is no joke—Jawo and I still have this hotline to link us up when the situation calls for it. That hotline, needless to say, is sports. When he is drawn out from his "temporary world" that is the Senate and gets invited to his "permanent world" that is sports, that's when we sometimes bump into each other again. The handshake that follows is warm as usual, as though it was the first handshake all over again. You don't just throw away a relationship built on honesty and trust; what you throw away is one founded on envy and mistrust, if not distrust. Like me, Jawo is sometimes branded as the most misunderstood person in the world. But deep in that stubborn-, granite-like façade is a gentle heart that is as soft as marshmallow, if not sponge. Mine maybe is cotton-soft?

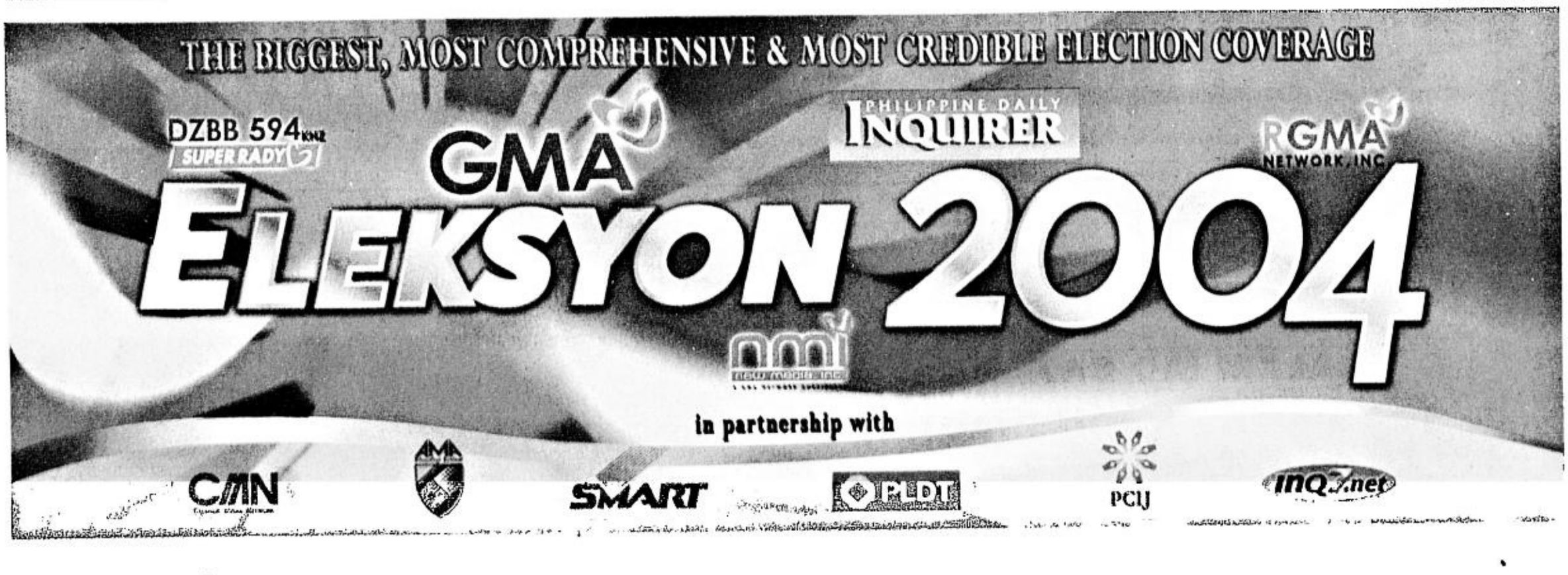
No matter what other people say, Jawo is as pro-people as Mother Teresa. He lives for the people and makes people his reason for living. He'd give his last shirt on his back just to make his neighbor happy. For, he knows by heart how it is to be poor, for he played basketball barefoot in his teens due to abject poverty, went to school barefoot as a pupil due to a life of want and deprivation. I'm not saying you should vote for him but if you do, it'd be a vote for our people badly in need of someone they'd call their genuine defender, ally, in the halls of Congress. No wonder Sen. Juan Flavier has batted, through a nice ad, for Jawo's continued stay in the Senate. And also, Gabriela, the bastion of women's rights, which recently went out of its way to endorse Jawo in recognition of Jawo's concern for womanhood.

I have shaken hands with Jawo but not Pia, whom I have yet to meet in person. But you need not meet someone to know if that someone is good or not. Sometimes, the lineage will do. And Pia, with Compañero for a father, has that.

With Jawo, you have a three-point shot all the time. Swak!

***

FASTBREAK. My applause to Roberto Celestino and Paul Petralba for emerging overall champions in the 6th Riviera Invitationals on April 25. Tuan Nguyen and Jong Laput were gross champions, Beth Menchavez and Lucy Landicho ladies gross champions, Cynthia Antonio and Bernadette Abierra ladies champions and the tandems Ike Tan-Edmund Capistrano Division A champion, Ike Gana-Rolando Bautista B champion and Teody Pascual-August Cruz C champion. The awarding ceremony was a smash hit, what with the witty Leah Navarro and promising Eric Gozo hosting it. Here's a glass once again to Commodore Danny Pizarro, Riviera president, for a well-organized tournament that delighted no end some 440 players.



Pacquiao is trapped–Marquez; Filipino 7-5 pick

From page A25

ciously and returned greetings when Filipino media men bumped into his group at the hotel lobby Wednesday afternoon.

The handsome Mexican double world champ appeared more like a harmless choirboy in his neat, black closed-neck get-up.

Marquez handlers said their boxer, perceived to be having weight troubles by Pacquiao's trainers, also weighed only 125 lb after his final training Wednesday.

"No predictions. If we don't think we can win, there's no use climbing the ring," explained Marquez trainer Nacho Beristain through team physician Miguel Duran.

The Mexican group did admit Pacquiao is good but "we trained extra hard for this one." Beristain said Marquez totaled 80 rounds of sparring against six different fighters who tried to simulate Pacquiao's southpaw stance.

Pacquiao totaled 135 rounds against several oversized sparmates, including welterweights, some of whom had refused to come back after suffering severe punishment.

Pacquiao, who had a glance of Marquez at the hotel buffet hall Tuesday night, will be on the same stage with his foe during the championship press conference Thursday.

The official weigh-in is on Friday.

The championship media center formally opened Wednesday and handed out fact sheets showing Pacquiao and Marquez quite even in many departments. Both fighters have racked up 13 successive wins, mostly by knockout, since they suffered their last loss in 1999.

After Marquez checked in, fight odds in this busy gambling capital settled at 7-5 in favor of Pacquiao. Tellers said that a $170 bet on Pacquiao will pay $100; whereas a $100 wager on Marquez will net $150.

"No problem, it's just too hot," said trainer Freddie Roach of the early dip in Pacquiao's title fight poundage.

There's no reason to suspect a burnout because Pacquiao has always been in control, Roach said.

Marquez will not sing holy hymns

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Manny Pacquiao, smiling a tense, ready-to-bite smile in the big framed posters around the many lobbies of the MGM Grand, looks exactly like Manny Pacquiao.

It's a perfect pose to sell the main event, which promoters believe will be a Saturday night sell-out at the Grand Arena of the host hotel.

Naturally, there's also the picture of Juan Manuel Marquez aiming to throw a killer punch opposite Pacquiao to complete the colorful championship advertisement.

Well, to repeat, Pacquiao in person looks exactly the same Pacquiao in the picture.

He's muscular, tough and, yes, mean.

Which is just fine because Pacquiao, a former road construction worker, had been through a lot of hardships before making it all the way to this city of stars.

***

Pacquiao, the poor boy from GenSan is now ranked side by side with the likes of Tom Jones, Paul Anka, Madonna, Rod Stewart, Simon and Garfunkel among the big stars at MGM Grand.

Well, Marquez, a former accountant, should also be rated as a star, although not as big and striking as the celebrated Filipino boxing hero.

Also a star here but, much unlike Pacquiao, Marquez in person is not a distant cousin of Marquez in his big pictures on the hotel lobby.

OK, Marquez in the framed boxing ads is also tough, if quietly menacing.

He also sends the message he'd do battle, slash out at the sound of the bell.

The odd thing is that Marquez in person doesn't resemble the fighter in the picture.

***

He looks very much like a Latino pop idol, Star sports editor Lito Tacujan swore.

He appears sweet and tender, attested Manila Bulletin boxing specialist Nick Giongco.

Both media men, who share a room with this reporter at MGM Grand, were also of the impression Marquez could not hurt a fly.

I wholeheartedly agree.

We nearly missed the holder of the WBA and IBF featherweight belts when our paths crossed Wednesday on the main hotel lobby.

I thought the nice-looking guy in a tight, black jacket and jogging pants was a straying cadet, a harmless freshman.

He could have also passed for a lost choirboy, if not for the bearded, burly men with him.

***

This is not to undermine the Mexican double world champ, but he also appeared faint if not totally harmless.

This needs to be said because of the many friends who kept wondering if they should place a bet on Pacquiao.

Look, if this were cockfighting, Marquez, based on his appearance in person, should be a double-your-money underdog.

But, really, will it be wise to wager against Marquez, also known as Dinamita back in Mexico City?

***

Listen, please.

I had had the chance to feel how truly tough Pacquiao is.

At least a couple of times, he had dared me to dig my fist into his steel-hard belly.

I had also felt the might and menace burning in the man when I felt his neck and shoulders.

He struck me as somebody carved out of a rock, to quote Ernest Hemingway.

In short, compared to Pacquiao, Marquez is both small and soft.

But will I dare put my brandy money on Pacquiao on Saturday here?

***

Sorry, folks. But, despite the prevailing physical edge, I can't count Pacquiao a shoo-in to manhandle Marquez on fight night.

Why? Because Pacquiao has already been eating full meals in the run-up to the Friday weigh-in.

Not Marquez.

A longtime featherweight, he visibly has had to stick to a strict, cruel diet to keep his weight in check.

But wait until he's through with the weigh-in.

Marquez will instantly blossom and be transformed overnight into a full lightweight, or even heftier.

The smaller, softer fellow will be tougher, bigger at fight time.

Marquez inside the ring will be exactly the same Marquez in the menacing picture.

He'll be throwing bombs, not singing holy hymns.

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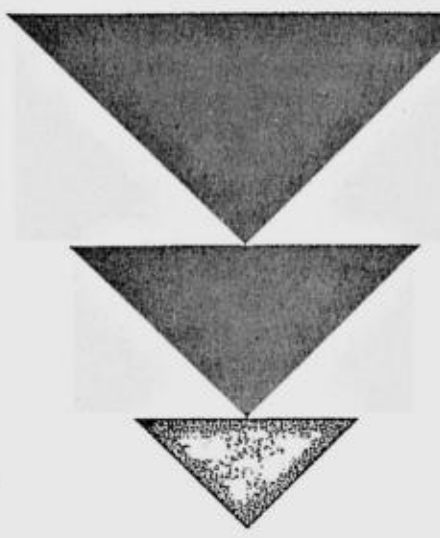

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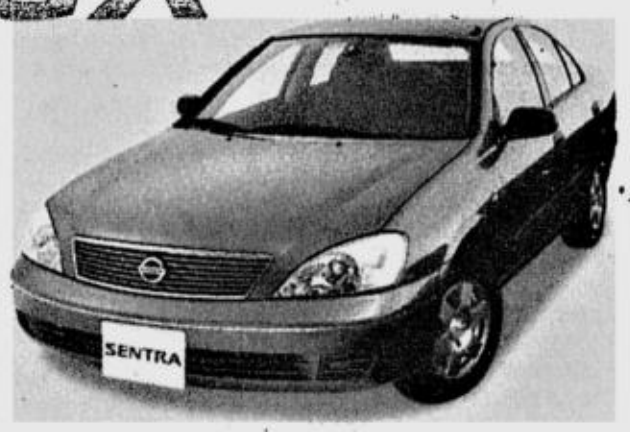

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SAMSUNG TOUR

Korean third leader in as many rounds

AFTER a Japanese came a Korean as Kim Chang Hoi fired three consecutive birdies from the 13th en route to a 3-under-par 69 and the solo lead yesterday in the championship division of the Samsung Amateur Tour kick-off leg at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

Kim, playing out of Royal Northwoods, bulldozed his way past overnight leader Toru Nakajima, first-round pacesetter Michael Bibat and the horde of Manila Southwoods boys with nines of 34-35 for a 216 aggregate. He had earlier rounds of 73 and 74.

Kim finished the day two strokes ahead of Lyndon Barril, a medical student who carded a second straight 73 for 218 and was the best-placed Southwoods bet at second place.

Barril held the lead after he birdied the 16th only to stumble with a double-bogey on the 17th and a bogey on the final hole.

Bibat submitted another 74 to move up to third place at 219 while Nakajima dropped to a share of fourth with former national player Gene Bondoc after a disappointing 78. Bondoc turned in a 76.

Canlubang's Jay Bayron likewise made his move with a 71, behind a 33 on the front nine, and stood six shots behind at 222.

The event is part of Samsung's all-out support for local golf. It is co-sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, Gatorade, Taylormade Adidas , KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport, Rogin-E and Philippine Airlines.

Completing the standings were Marc Lopez 78-226, Mari Hechanova 72-224, Aran Olea 77-227, Miko Yee 79-231 and John Kier Abdon 82-233.

The hot and humid day also saw Class B player Alfred Concepcion shoot the first ace of the season.

Concepcion holed his tee shot on the third hole and won a special prize from the host club.

Meanwhile, Terence Macatangay and Erika Salinas picked up their second victories in the Samsung Jungolf Tour at the Tat Filipinas Golf Club course in San Pedro, Laguna recently.

Red-hot Parker lifts Spurs past Lakers

San Antonio takes 2-0 advantage

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Tony Parker scored a playoff career-high 30 points to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 95-85 victory over the Lakers on Wednesday and a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinals.

"I was just in the attack mode," Parker said. "I am playing with a lot of confidence now."

What was viewed as an epic matchup pitting superstar Tim Duncan and the National Basketball Association champion Spurs against the four future Hall of Famers of the Lakers is being dominated by Parker, a 6-2 guard from France whose unstoppable quickness is quickly turning this series into a rout.

Parker had 20 points and nine assists in Sunday's opener, repeatedly blowing past Gary Payton and the rest of the Lakers' defense as if they were standing still. In this one, he took the RPMs to another level.

"He has been taking over games and shooting the ball well," Duncan said of Parker.

Again making Payton look helpless, Parker raced to 16 points in the first quarter as San Antonio grabbed a 33-17 lead.

But his true stamp of stardom came in the final period, when the reliable Duncan did not score.

"We have so many guys that can score," Duncan said. "We move the ball around and if our shooters get open they are going to knock them down."

The Spurs were clinging to an 83-80 lead when Parker's penetration led to two freethrows for himself and another for Rasho Nesterovic.

On the next possession, he used a crossover dribble that had Devean George swiping at air before lofting a runner over 7-1 Shaquille O'Neal that splashed through for an 88-80 bulge with 3:38 left.

Parker, who made 13-of-23 shots, added the clincher with an 18-footer for a 92-83 lead with 1:02 to play.

After a rough stretch in the second half, San Antonio got its defense in order and held Los Angeles without a basket over the final five minutes.

The Spurs ran their winning streak to 17 games, matching the longest in team history. *AFP*

PARKER passes behind the La

SPORTSWATCH

Iligan teener rules Bulacan boulderfest

IT was youth over age at the recently-concluded DENR and DIT-sponsored Bulacan Rockwell Fiesta featuring bouldering competitions using the natural climbing walls at the Biak na Bato Natural Park. A visiting climber from Iligan City, 14-year-old Igiboy Lagda, upstaged his older, more experienced rivals in the finals of the two-day bouldering competition that attracted more than 50 male and female sport climbers all over the country. Lagda, third placer in the first leg of the national bouldering circuit at SM North Edsa had a total of 64,000 points and edged out SM Megamall Pumpfest champion Miel Pahati from the University of Asia and the Pacific, who tallied 49,500 points while third placer Erwin Gozum of Manila had 38,000 points. Rounding out the top five male climbers in the event also sponsored by Victorinox Swiss Knives, were Buddy Advincula, also from Manila, with 37,000 points and Maman Salada of Cagayan de Oro with 35,500. In the women's side, UP Diliman student and reigning national bouldering champion Ina Flores easily took the title with 29,500 points. Iligan City's Gizelle Lopez was second with 16,000 points. Iloilo bet Tala Taningco, with fewer attempts, finished third with 16,000 points.

Belarmiño tops 3 shootfests

SHOOTING ace Police Supt. Benjamin Belarmiño Jr. bagged three championships, topping the 1st Regional Chief 3rd RCIDU Cup 2004, the 4th BSA Guest Nation Standard Cup and the 5th Circuit-PNP Invitational Shootfest 2004 held recently in Batangas City and Pampanga. The multi-awarded Belarmiño bested 250 shooters from various gun clubs in the two-day shooting competition held in Camp Gen. Malvar Firing Range inside the Batangas Police Provincial Office in Barangay Kumintang Ilaya. Sybercare Gun Club owner Rosy Labayog congratulated Belarmiño and Rommel Canlas for finishing 1-2 in the 1st Regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit Cup 2004 held at Mt. Clark-Firing Range, Don Bonifacio Subdivision, Angeles City.

PRIZED CATCH ANGLER Deo Alvarez (right), GM of Atlas Publishing, shows off a 14-kilo talakitok he hauled during a recent tournament in Calatagan, Batangas. With Alvarez is gaffer-guide Ronald Batala.

Greenhills 5-miler fires off Sunday

ABOUT 800 runners will troop to the Greenhills Shopping Complex on Ortigas Avenue on Sunday for the 4th staging of the Greenhills 5-Mile Classic. The race, organized by the Greenhills Running Club and sponsored by Procter and Gamble Phils. Distributing Inc., fires off at 6 a.m. with executives of Procter and Gamble in attendance. Supported by the Greenhills Shopping Complex, the Lucio Tan group of companies, Centrum, Milo and Nike, the race dangles P5,000 cash prizes for the overall winner and the top finisher in the ladies division. The second and third placers in both divisions take home P3,000 and P2,000, respectively. Dr. Jerry Jarin, president of the Greenhills Running Club, said the runners have until Friday to register for the race.

Pasay cockers derby features 52 fights

FIERCE action is expected in another edition of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association 4-Cock Derby tonight at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Fifty-two fights are scheduled beginning at 7 p.m. in the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Complexor 3000, said pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. Leading the PCCA Cocker of the Year race is the Gold Cup Jed and Joy entry of William Go who has so far tallied 14.5 points. But expected to provide stiff competition are the entries of Jun Marasigan (JM Intruder), who shared the championship in last Monday's Sagupaan derby; Rey Briones (Spartan's Blood), Rudy Salud (Winning Time Jobo), Bobby Cabillon (Louie J), Lito Orillaza (LA 939 Jobo), Joey Lapid (Saluyan Jade), Pol Estrellado (Quinto Alas SP), Blandy Tolentino (BB San Pablo), Jun Topacio (JT Emerald). Meanwhile, the Quinto Alas SP 4-Cock Derby of Pol Estrellado will be held on May 14. For inquiries, call 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

NEW NBC CAMPAIGNER—Batangas has joined the National Basketball Conference, completing the North cast in the national championship starting late this month. NBC secretary general Tito Palma (second from left) and Batangas team owner Bernie Maranan seal the squad's entry with a handshake. Also in photo are team manager Ruel Galang (left) and NBC basketball operations head Noel Zarate.

Freedom calls: Search on for Moab

WHEN one talks about adventure, Moab in mountainous and picturesque Utah, is a hot topic. Moab—a land of multicolored sandstone, red dirt, water-carved mountains, rock arches and canyons—provides the best venues for mountain biking, hiking, climbing, touring, and river rafting, among others.

"Moab is an adventure capital," Sieg Peñaverde, account director for Leo Burnett, says. "Everybody seems to be on a mountain bike, on horseback or what have you." Peñaverde had experienced himself the adventure that is Moab in 1997 when he accompanied the Marlboro Adventure Team (MAT) from the Philippines.

People who share his passion for such thrill will get their chance to undergo the same Moab experience as Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc., behind its managing director Chris Nelson, has started the nationwide search for the Marlboro Adventure Team this year. And one need not be a hard-core outdoor enthusiast to gain a shot at the five tickets to the adventure capital from Sept. 18 to 30.

"Anybody who is a smoker aged 18-years and above can sign up for the search," LAMP manager Eric Carandang explains. "The requirements are very minimal, you just have to have the desire to explore your freedom and the urge for adventure."

Peñaverde says the MAT search, which espouses the theme "Freedom Is Calling," gives every thrill-seeker, regardless of their expertise in outdoor activities, an equal chance to make the team. "It's not that we're pushing aside the experts— they're also welcome—but we're trying to give equal opportunity to all adventure lovers," Peñaverde says, adding this philosophy had paved the way for a woman, Candice Madamba, to be part of the Marlboro Adventure Team for the first time since the Philippines sent crews to Moab in 1995.

Interested applicants will have to com-

PARTICIPANTS try the Tyrolean Traverse (above) during the recent launch of the 2004 Marlboro Adventure Team search at the Rockwell Playground which Philip Morris Phils. managing director Chris Nelson initiated.

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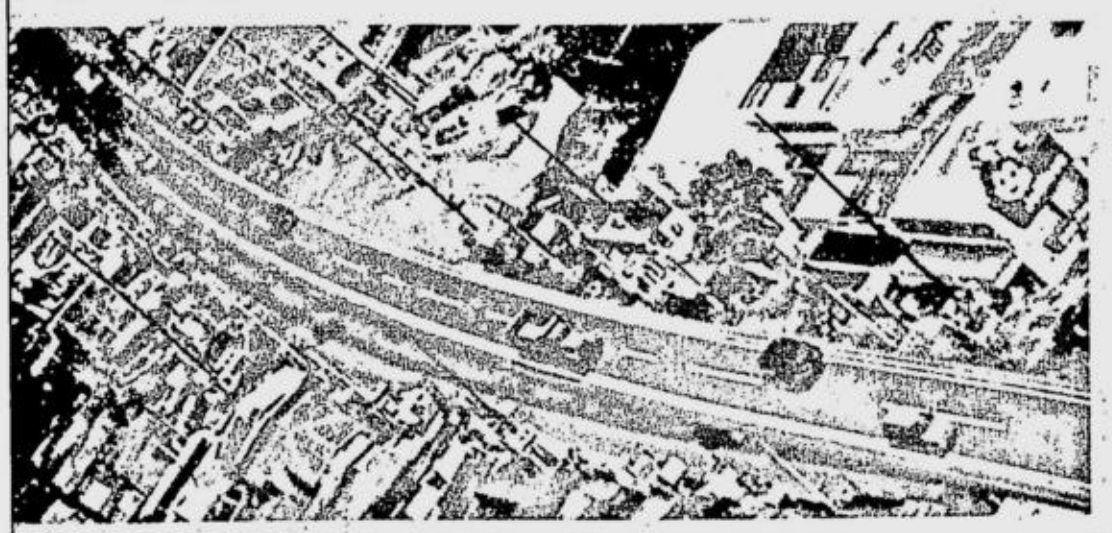

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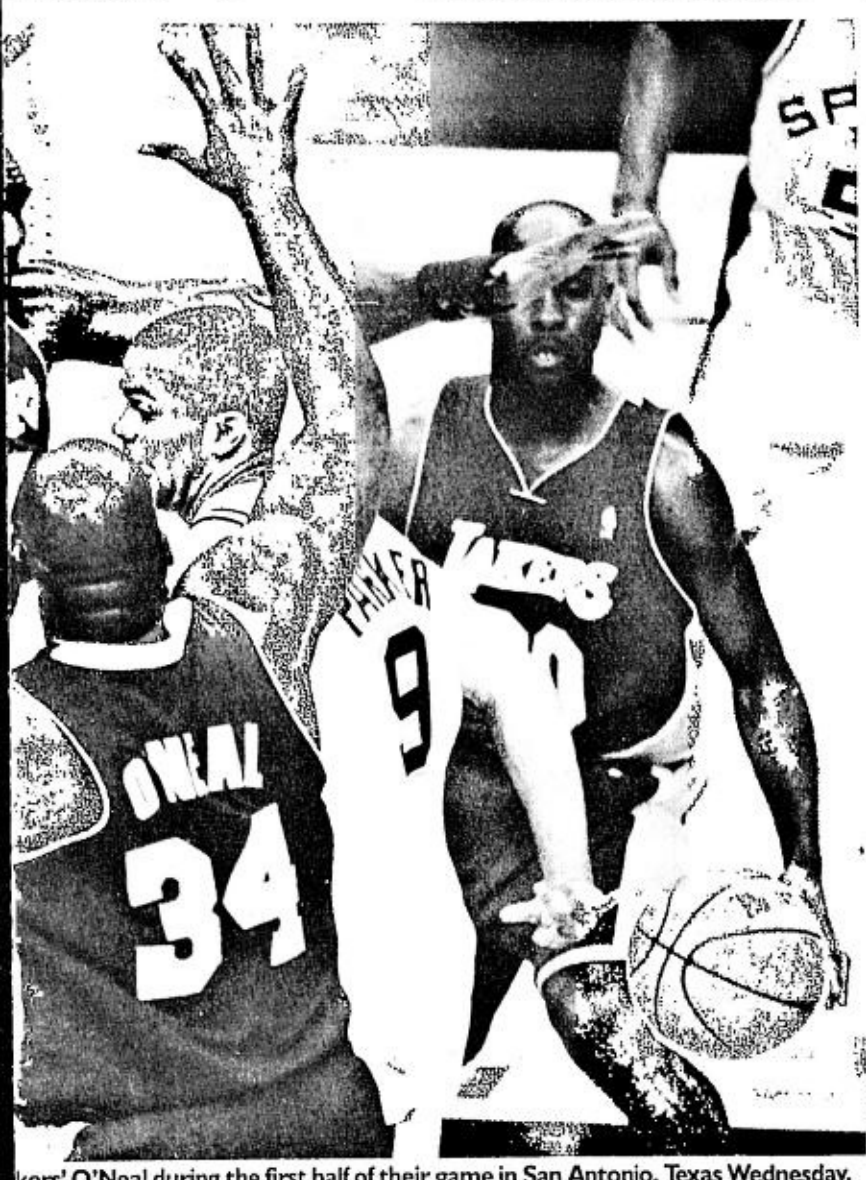

kers' O'Neal during the first half of their game in San Antonio, Texas Wednesday. REUTERS

World youth chess qualifier set this month

THE 2004 National Age-Group and National Juniors chess championships will be held this month at the Multi-Purpose Hall on the fifth floor of Market Place Shopping Mall in Gen. Kalentong St., Mandaluyong City.

The age-group tournament for boys and girls under 18, under 16, under 14, under 12 and under 10 years will be held from May 17 to 21, while the junior division for boys and girls 20 years and below is scheduled on May 24 to 28.

The winners of each category in the age-group division will represent the country in the World Youth championships to be held in Greece later this year according to National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Mat Defensor and Eduardo S. Madrid, chair and CEO of the sponsoring Primanila Realty & Development Corp.

Rod Suaco is the event's project director.

Registration and reservation of provincial entries deadline is until 5 p.m. on May 15.

Participants may register at the NCFP Secretariat at Tempus Bldg., II, 21-A Matalino St., Diliman, Quezon City with a copy of their birth certificates. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

TRIUMPHANT TAGAYTAY
Grandmaster Joey Antonio (fifth from left) and other members of the victorious Tagaytay City chess team, the newly crowned National Inter-Province champions, present the winner's trophy to Mayor Francis Tolentino (seventh from left) recently. Also in the frame are (from left) Councilor Laureano Mendoza, Rudy Castillo, IM Edmund Gatus, Jerome Balico, Vice Mayor Virgilio T. Ambion, NM Rolly Martinez, NM Willie Abalos and Councilor Abraham Tolentino.

b adventure team

NELSON

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Finals from July 21 to 23.
nalists will get a taste, a pre-
will happen in Moab. There
ATV driving, water events,
ilding. From these 25, the
chosen and given the chance
the adventure of a lifetime,"
ays. Physical skill and en-
be the primary basis for se-
haracter will also play a big
nal analysis.
ys of adventure in the Moab
wait the MAT members.
t seven years, we've sent 70-
o Moab. And they have one
mon, Moab to them is an ex-
lifetime," Sieg says.
ing other peoples' culture
—other than the freedom of
ing on the toughest terrain
4s, blazing new trails on
high-powered motorbikes and shooting the unforgiving rapids of legendary rivers—is also a bonus for every trip.

"If you ask people who were there, they'll say just to be able to interact with other peoples in Moab already makes their adventure worth remembering," Peñaverde relates.

The 2004 MAT search, dubbed "Freedom Is Calling," was launched in concert parties in Boracay and at the Rockwell Playground in Makati City recently. Similar gigs are set in Cebu, Baguio and Pampanga. A grand victory party at the NBC Tent will culminate the search, in which the five regulars and two alternates in the MAT will be announced.

"We're actually going around, bringing the adventure to different parts of the country. And we expect more Filipinos to respond to the Call of Freedom," Carandang says.

Adventure-lovers can also live out the excitement by joining the MAT "Win The Gear" raffle, in which they can take home premium MAT gear to equip them for the rugged outdoors. Top prize here is a cool Dodge Durango, a powerful machine ready to take on any terrain. Also up for grabs are 10 Giant Mountain Bikes, 15 Sony Ericsson P900 Mobile Phones, 20 Sony Clie Personal Entertainment Communicators, 30 Canon Digital Cameras, 100 Alpinist Jackets and 20 Northface Backpacks. Grand draw is slated June 17.

formats test 144 pairs
n Sherwood Hills Invt'l

EXCITING three-format scheme for 18-hole round will be used for the wood Hills Invitational member- r tournament tomorrow at the Jack laus-designed Sherwood Hills Golf Country Club course in Trece Mar- , Cavite.

e-off will be shotgun style at 8 a.m. ompeting teams will vie for the over- tle and the top awards in three divi- , playing alternate shots for six holes, mble for the next six holes and finally, egate for the last six.

ith such a unique format, it will be a h test of teamwork and consistency the full field of 144 member-guest is in the event given major backing lobe Platinum through Archie Mon- and Nonie Busuego.

The tournament is also sponsored by Splash Island, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Information Professionals Inc., Asia-Pacific Golf Co., Kork Inc. Timberpro, Golforce Inc., Club Leisure Management, Corp., Industrial Waste Systems Inc., Coppertone, Roche Phils. and Wilson.

Leading the field are Sherwood Hills chair of the board Bob Sobrepeña, sports and games committee chair Freddie Mendoza, architect Ruben Payumo, Paco Gonzales and Jimmy Borromeo.

"The Sherwood Hills Invitational has become a very unique event with its format and it spells nothing but fun for everyone," said Sobrepeña.

Last year's winners Larry Tojino and JP Reyes will not be around to defend the crown due to separate commitments.

SUBOK NA SA HALALAN.
ABS-CBN
Halalan 2004
TFC
THE FILIPINO CHANNEL
3 DAYS TO GO
Makikisabay sa pagbabantay ng kanilang boto ang mga ka-pamilyang Pilipino sa iba't ibang dako ng mundo.

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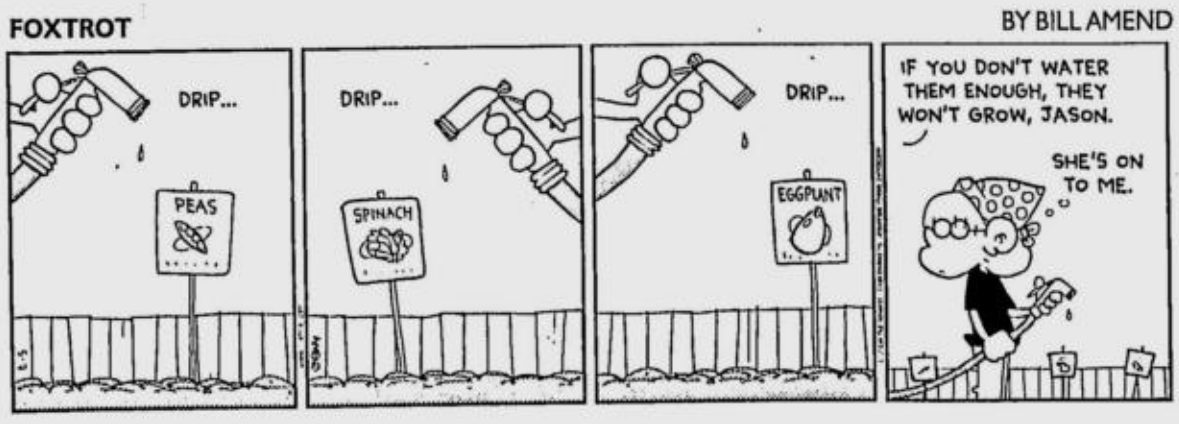


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

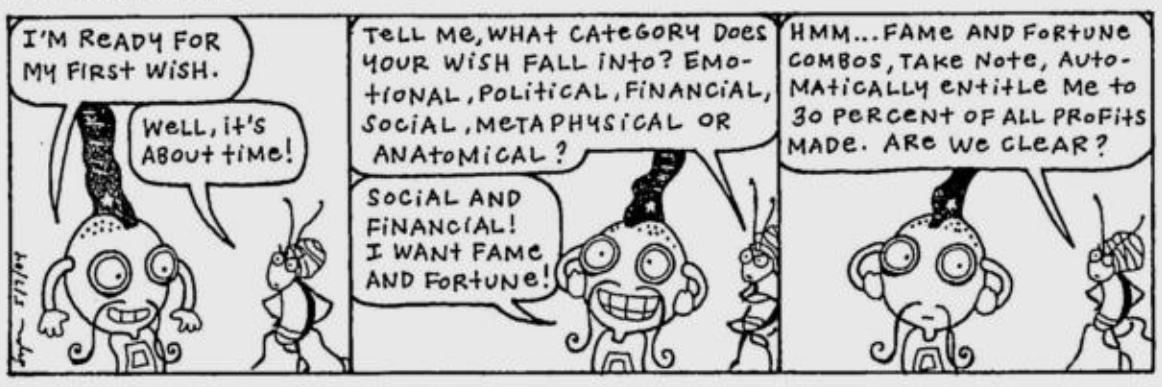
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a dignity and nobility that inspire others. People respect the perseverance and dedication you demonstrate to any cause that is important to you. Above all, you are loyal and reliable. Expect to wrap up certain areas of your life this year to prepare for new beginnings in 2005.
Birthdate of: Eva Peron, actress/politician; Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, writer; Gary Cooper, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Expect increased activity where you live for the next few weeks. Domestic strife or chaos due to renovations and redecorating demands your patience and attention.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In the month ahead, you'll be capable of vigorous mental work! (Your mind is now as sharp as a tack.) You'll be able to work longer than usual at mental tasks.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Hold on to your credit cards! You're in the mood to spend money this month. You might also have disputes about possessions and the ownership of something.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): In the month ahead, you'll be much more of a fighter for your own rights than usual. You feel charged with enthusiasm and ready for action! (And you want to have your own way.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): For the rest of the month, it's best if you can work alone as much as possible. You want credit for what you do, and you're not going to share the limelight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Now is the time to identify your goals and make plans to pursue them. Tell others what you want to do. Who knows where you might get help and encouragement?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your ambition is aroused now. Because of this, you might be in conflict with your boss or any other authority figure. (You won't back down.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an excellent month to put lots of energy into expanding your mind and learning more about your world. You can do this through travel or study.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might encounter disputes in the month ahead about the joint ownership of something. It's good to have a healthy self-interest. Don't be afraid to defend yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): There might be tension between you and a partner this month. Try to think of the bigger picture. If you want this person in your life, be diplomatic and cooperative.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might find it difficult to get the proper recognition for your efforts this month. You work hard, but who notices? You do! (Your self-respect is what matters most.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a great month for sports or for a vacation. You want to have fun! Romance and love affairs are sweetly promising.

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

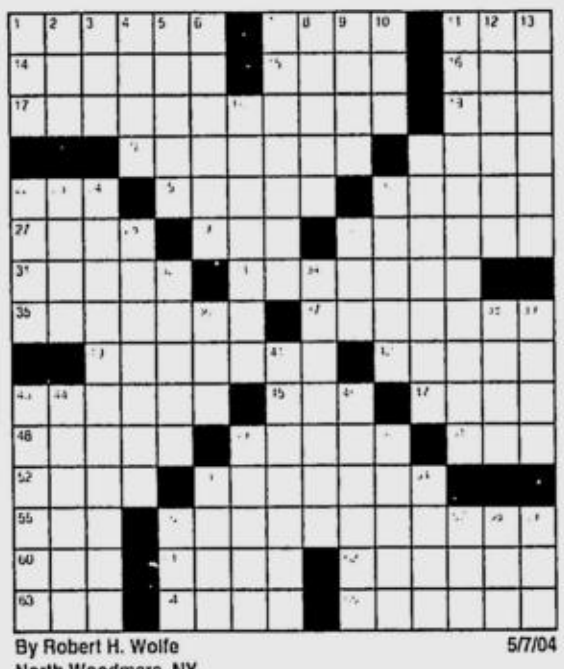
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

5/7/04

ACROSS
1 Large eels
7 Did the crawl
11 Circle part
14 Emetic medication
15 Not permitted
16 Stephen of "Michael Collins"
17 One with a flat top is...?
19 Life-saving meth.
20 Scrimped
21 Turn from
22 Use a straw
25 Up and about
26 Post-crucifixion depiction
27 Tortoise racer
29 However, informally
30 Aromatic herb
31 Representative
33 Throw into confusion
35 Restaurant greeter
37 Belly
40 Shipboard balance
42 "Plaza __"
43 1968 Cliff Robertson film
45 Designer Claiborne
47 Side
48 Storms
49 Stashes away
51 __-mo
52 Dumbstruck
53 Brando film
55 British isle
56 Flat rates may be governed by...?
60 Abyss
61 Oahu bird
62 Aromatic compounds
63 Fam. member
64 Reach across
65 Sown

DOWN
1 Wire measure
2 Unseal, poetically
3 NT book
4 Top cards
5 Conference site of 1945
6 Metamorphic rock
7 Post
8 Angler's boot
9 Tucked in for the night
10 Wet soil
11 Flat feet are...?
12 Good name
13 "__ Knowledge"
18 Bubble over with excitement
21 Join a hootenanny
22 Persian monarch
23 Villain of Venice
24 Flat irons are...?
26 Hangs in the balance
28 Came in
30 Little lie
32 Freshwater ducks
34 Judaic sect
36 Crafty
38 List-ending abbr.
39 Verne captain
41 Be shiny
43 Muscle woes
44 "__ Five-O"
46 Goose eggs
49 Coloring agent
50 Sound judgment
53 Profound
54 Major follower?
56 ER staffers
57 Roulette bet
58 Mine yield
59 Dr. Tim's drug

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

E	T	C	H			H	A	M	M			W	H	E	R	E
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5/7/04

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

'At all costs, marriage should be preserved'

By Marinel R. Cruz

ONE of actor Oscar Moreno's wishes before he died was to see his daughter, actress Boots Anson-Roa, become a senator.

But the former '50s matinee idol died in July 2003, six months before his daughter officially announced her decision to run as senator under the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP).

"My dad is now with the Guy up there," Anson-Roa told INQUIRER Entertainment. "Just the thought of that gives me more confidence."

Invitation to run

But Anson-Roa said the invitation to run for senator has been there for the past three elections.

She said she was first asked to run under the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Danding Cojuangco in the 1995 elections.

"(Then Sen. Ernesto) Maceda asked me to join them, but I had just arrived from the States after living there for 11 years. I didn't know much about what's going on in the country so I declined," she explained.

In 1998, then Sen. Miriam Santiago and her husband, Narciso "Jun" Santiago, invited her to be part of the People's Reform Party, "but I turned them down, too."

Anson-Roa joined the Lamp Coalition of then Vice President Joseph Estrada in 2000, "but I was not comfortable. I didn't have the right mind-set.

ANSON-ROA: I was an afterthought.

Can't say no

"I was not psychologically prepared. So about three or four months before the official campaign period, I talked to Erap (Estrada's nickname) and told him I don't feel that it's time for me to run," she recalled.

"Now, I couldn't say no to Ronnie (Poe's nickname)," Anson-Roa said.

She said Poe, KNP standard-bearer and presidential candidate, went to their house twice to convince her husband, Pete Roa.

She was then out on a meeting with the staff members of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCAA), where she is the Cinema Committee chair, when Poe arrived at their house.

"Pete told Ronnie that he'd have to come back later. My husband said he'll think about it. And Ronnie did, at 1 o'clock in the morning," she recalled.

"They told me that's its really only a matter of time," she said. "At some point, *papasok ka rin dito sa pulitika*."

Anson-Roa said the position she is now occupying under the KNP was originally meant for Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

ANSON-ROA with KNP standard-bearer and presidential candidate Poe, who went to their house twice to convince her husband, Pete, that she should run.

Afterthought

"I was an afterthought," she said. "But I don't mind. I have no insecurities about that. I respect Imee. I respect the position that I'm getting into.

"I think I'm qualified. I'm prepared now. I think it's the right time. I'm not getting any younger," said the 59-year-old actress.

"It's funny *nga eh, kung kelan ako* afterthought, *doon ako natuloy*," she added.

She said her family members had given her the blessing to run. They have also been working hard for her campaign.

"In fact, my son-in-law, Robbie, had to resign from his job just to become my campaign manager," she said. "He's a marketing director."

Personally, Anson-Roa said she is working on learning to be more assertive and aggressive in addressing the *masa*. She added that she plans to concentrate in "upholding the welfare and the dignity of the Filipino family both by example and by legislation."

"At all costs, marriage should be preserved," Anson-Roa said.

'I want to run a clean campaign'

By Nini Valera

VICE presidential candidate Noli de Castro went from broadcaster to senator with 16 million votes in the 2001 elections, the highest number of votes a candidate has garnered in the history of the Philippines.

Yesterday morning, De Castro also announced over a morning talk show that the Iglesia ni Cristo, which votes as a block, is supporting him.

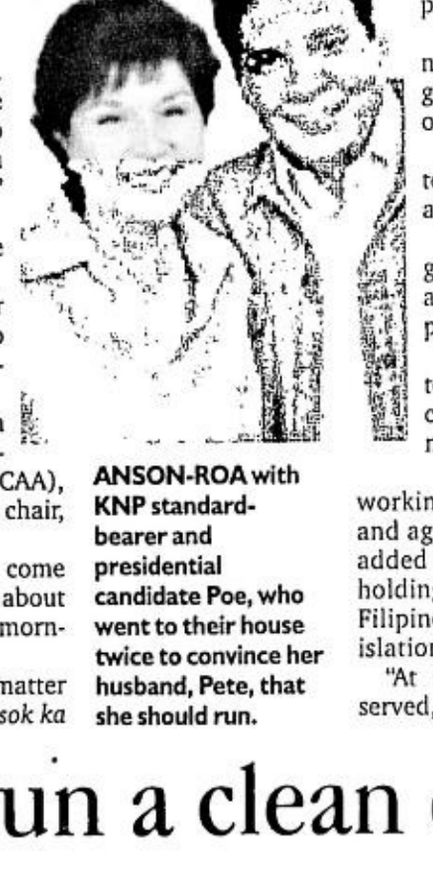
So it was not surprising that De Castro, 55, exuded confidence when he met with entertainment writers yesterday at a Quezon City Restaurant for lunch.

Speaking in Filipino, De Castro, who is also called "Kabayan," told his guests that the gathering was not a press conference, but rather a get together of peers. He repeated the announcement about the Iglesia ni Cristo support of his candidacy.

Still, he could not avoid being asked sensitive questions, like the issue between him and vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda, a former broadcaster herself in the same network that nurtured De Castro's career.

"I thought I could avoid that question," De Castro said in Filipino. "We're here to be together and not talk about issues."

But he disclosed that had he wanted to fight back, he could have used information supplied to him by other people. He said these pieces of information are documented, but "I want to run a clean campaign, a high quality campaign."



DE CASTRO JIMMY DY

"So if I answer her accusations with the information that I have, I would not be living up to how I believe my campaign should run. Let the people decide this coming elections," De Castro said.

Meeting with entertainment writers came at the tail end of the De Castro's campaign that it felt like an afterthought. Face-to-face with Kabayan, the feeling became more palpable as he answered only three of INQUIRER Entertainment's questions before making a quick exit.

"I have a plane to catch," he said. "We should sit down later."

Then he was gone. But here's what we gathered from Kabayan.

What experiences shaped who you are?

What do you mean? Well, *siguro, yung* broadcasting. I have been in broadcasting for 20 years. Broadcasting brought me to public service and to politics. That's why I'm here as a politician. That's where I learned about public service, which I use as a politician.

Who is the most important person in your life and what have you learned from this person?

"There are many important people in my life. There's my wife. Of course, there's my mother. She raised six of us siblings on her own. My father died when I was a young boy. She sent us all to school. She did this by raising a couple of pigs in the backyard."

Who do you look up to in public life?

"*Marami* when it comes to public life. *Ngayong lamang kasi ako na* expose *sa* public life. So *ang* guide *ko pa rin ay yung ating mga kababayan* and their problems. *Alam ko ang mga problema ng ating kababayan dahil doon ako nanggaling sa kahirapan. Alam ko ang mga kailangan nila.*"

See'emall!

AYALA CINEMAS

ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
THX 1 VAN HELSING	1 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	1 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	5 HELLBOY/ VAN HELSING	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 VAN HELSING 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10	1 VAN HELSING
2 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	2 VAN HELSING	2 STARSKY & HUTCH	6 VAN HELSING	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 VAN HELSING 2:30, 5:35, 8:20, 11:05	2 HELLBOY
3 STARSKY & HUTCH		GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 VAN HELSING 12:10, 3:30, 6:50, 9:40, 11:30	7 MAN ON FIRE	GUARANTEED SEATS SCHOOL OF ROCK 3 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, VAN HELSING 12:00 MN	3 SCHOOL OF ROCK
4 SCHOOL OF ROCK	3 VAN HELSING	4 SCHOOL OF ROCK		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 STARSKY & HUTCH 1:50, 4:30, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	4 I WILL SURVIVE
5 VAN HELSING	4 I WILL SURVIVE	GB1 (Greenbelt 1) 1 I WILL SURVIVE 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE... 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10, 11:10	5 PAYCHECK
		2 VAN HELSING 11:15, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45			

At the Activity Center

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MUSIC FOR MOM featuring 6th Summer MAY 9, 5:00 pm	SIDE A LIVE! May 9, 2004	CENTER FOR POP MUSIC CONCERT May 9, 2004

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GERRY'S GRILL, Glorietta 2 - feat. INTENSE (9:00pm)	TAVERN ON THE SQUARE: For inquiries pls. call 757-4484/85

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ALABANG TOWN CENTER — SIDE-A LIVE CONCERT. May 9, 6pm at the Activity Center. Customer Service Hotline: 842 2782

AYALA CENTER CEBU — COOKING DEMO AND MAKE-OVER SESSIONS WITH MANILYN REYNES. May 16, 4pm at the Activity Center. Customer Service Hotline: (032) 231 5342 to 44 loc. 324. Other Activities: Mother's Day Sale from May 9-16, Mother's Day Promo from May 9-16

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It's been that way
ever since I can remember.

Isang mama ko lang
andyan ka na agad.

That s what I really miss . . .
especially now that we re miles apart.

So if I want to reach out to you
I just call you up on my Globe.

Isang ring ko pa lang,
sagot ka na agad.

At pag sabi mo nang hello
parang hawak ko na rin
ang kamay mo.

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

Bangko Sentral keeps key policy rates steady

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday kept its overnight policy rates steady for the 10th straight month despite the higher-than-expected inflation rate in April.

The move did not come as a surprise as the recent appreciation of the peso to the 55-$1 level—after falling to historic lows in late March—was expected to help temper consumer price increases in the months ahead.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board, in its monthly policy rate setting meeting yesterday, maintained its rates at 6.75 percent for overnight borrowings and 9 percent for overnight lending.

The policy rates were last adjusted in July last year, when they were reduced by 25 basis points.

The country's annual inflation rate, based on the 1994 base of the National Statistics Office, rose to 4.1 in April from 3.8 percent in March.

In a statement yesterday, BSP officer-in-charge Alberto Reyes said the inflationary pressures in April were expected to be temporary.

"These factors are not likely to pose a significant influence on inflation in the long run," Reyes said.

"Monetary authorities believe that the long-term inflation will continue to be well contained," he said.

"We had expected inflation in April to end high because of temporary increase in demand, mostly due to the May 10 elections and because of the peso's depreciation," said ATR-Kim Eng Securities economist Luz Lorenzo.

While domestic demand was likely to remain strong in May, Lorenzo said it would likely normalize by June.

She said that the rising international commodity prices, particularly that of crude oil, had added pressure on the inflation.

"The main culprit here is China, whose economy has been expanding at breakneck pace. A move by the Chinese government to slow growth may have a calming effect on fuel and other commodity prices," Lorenzo said.

The government aims to keep inflation within a range of 4-5 percent this year.

Peso hits 4-mo high

THE PESO yesterday hit a new four-month high of 55.39 before tumbling to 55.65 to $1, as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas gobbled up dollars at the spot market to take advantage of strong inflows.

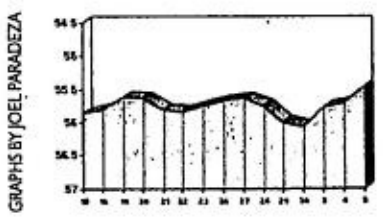
The peso opened strong at 55.40 but weakened to an intraday low of 55.69 before closing at 55.65 to $1. Turnover in yesterday's trade amounted to $246 million.

The peso lost 19 centavos yesterday at the Philippine Dealing System from Wednesday's closing of 55.46 to $1.

PESO/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.65 = $

As of 5 p.m., May 6, 2004

¥ 108.98 = $ 1

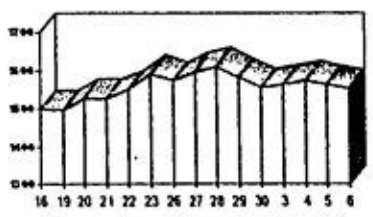
As of 5 p.m., May 6, 2004

GOLD: $391.70-392.30

per ounce Hong Kong, May 6, 2004

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks drop ahead of polls

STOCKS yesterday ended lower, led by No. 2 phone firm Globe Telecom Inc , as players locked in profits ahead of a long weekend for national elections on May 10.

The main index dropped 0.67 percent, or 10.44 points, to 1,551.69 points. The market is up more than 7 percent this year.

Globe Telecom, jointly owned by Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications , lost 2.98 percent, or P25 , to P815. It accounted for 30 percent of total trade.

The B shares of Manila Electric Co (Meralco) dropped 1.59 percent, or 50 centavos, to P31.

"Investors are just cautious ahead of the elections," said Eagle Equities President Joey Roxas.

Value turnover rose to P803.44 million from Wednesday's P539.23 million.

Losers beat gainers 22 to 21 and 29 stocks were unchanged. ***Reuters***

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RP, ADB to pursue $200-M swap deal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have agreed to thresh out their differences and push through with the delayed $200-million currency swap deal.

According to a finance official, the ADB and the government were willing to come to the negotiating table with better offers such that a deal was expected to be signed in a month's time.

The facility, approved last January, seeks to provide long-term peso-denominated loans to selected banks for re-lending to businesses that earn revenue in pesos.

The ADB will raise the funds for the facility by swapping convertible currencies such as US dollars for pesos with the Philippine government.

"Now, there has been a meeting of minds in terms of pricing," said the finance official privy to the negotiations.

Although representatives of both parties were yet to schedule a meeting to discuss the specific improvements in their price offers, the official said they agreed to forge a deal soon after the May 10 general elections.

Talks over the currency swap deal were stalled due to pricing issues.

One of these was the government's stand that the ADB set the swap rates at below market level.

The government claimed that the ADB could afford to give lower rates as it can source funds abroad at a lower cost.

The dollars that the Philippine government will generate from the deal will be used to either strengthen its dollar reserves or pay off maturing foreign obligations.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 6, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	42	41.5	42	702,300
China Banking Corp.	675	675	675	675	800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	39.5	39	39.5	39,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	540,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25	25	24.5	24.5	281,100
Security Bank Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	6,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.25	24	24	8,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	80,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1950	2000	1950	2000	920
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1470	1480	1470	1480	1,360
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.75	24	23.75	24	6,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	150,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	835	835	810	815	296,270
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.64	5,206,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1075	1080	1065	1070	150,060
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.25	144,900
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	31.5	31	31	1,258,500
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	2,375,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	785,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3.05	3	3.05	2,027,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	210,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.48	1.52	1,161,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	41,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	44,500
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	14	14	14	14	59,600
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.59	0.59	60,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	193,600
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74.5	74	74.5	21,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	350,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	3,617,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3	3	2.95	2.95	537,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	44,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	4,800,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.13	0.13	70,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	190,000
Fil-Estate Corporation	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	741,200
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	202,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	45,700
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	100,000
Waterfront Phils., Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	21,910,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	1,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	2,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.5	7,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar'University	6	6	6	6	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	5,212,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	921,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	80,000
SM Development Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	32,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.1	3,944,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	130,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	1,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	17,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	12,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	700,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	3,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,665,580	43,061,850.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	547,907,230	703,898,635.00
PRO	11,589,000	55,604,360.00
Mining	31,050,000	695,100.00
OIL	3,000,000	8,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	595,211,810	803,268,345.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	453.31	UP 1.19
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,425.34	DOWN 14.91
PRO	545.10	DOWN 11.26
Mining	1,375.27	DOWN 25.36
OIL	1.20	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	950.57	DOWN 1.45
Composite	1,551.69	DOWN 10.44

NO. OF ADVANCES: 21, NO. OF DECLINES: 22, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 72, NO. OF TRADES: 1,371

CURRENCIES

May 6, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.821625	1.000000	55.4900
Japan	Yen	0.007564	0.009206	0.5108
United Kingdom	Pound	1.473256	1.793100	99.4991
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105338	0.128207	7.1142
Switzerland	Franc	0.644766	0.784745	43.5455
Canada	Dollar	0.597850	0.727643	40.3769
Singapore	Dollar	0.487496	0.593331	32.9239
Australia	Dollar	0.601614	0.732225	40.6312
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.179493	2.652661	147.1962
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219088	0.266652	14.7965
Brunei	Dollar	0.486054	0.591576	32.8266
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000115	0.0064
Thailand	Baht	0.020660	0.025145	1.3953
UAE	Dirham	0.223699	0.272264	15.1079
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.217100	67.5369
Argentina	Peso	0.286780	0.349040	19.3682
Brazil	Real	0.277576	0.337838	18.7466
Denmark	Kroner	0.134395	0.163572	9.0766
India	Rupee	0.018447	0.022452	1.2459
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216246	0.263193	14.6046
Mexico	New Peso	0.072072	0.087719	4.8675
New Zealand	Dollar	0.521965	0.635284	35.2519
Norway	Kroner	0.122222	0.148756	8.2545
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014351	0.017467	0.9692
South Africa	Rand	0.120561	0.146735	8.1423
Korea	Won	0.000704	0.000857	0.0476
Sweden	Kroner	0.109661	0.133469	7.4062
Syria	Pound	0.018576	0.022609	1.2546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024845	0.030239	1.6780
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000429	0.000522	0.0290

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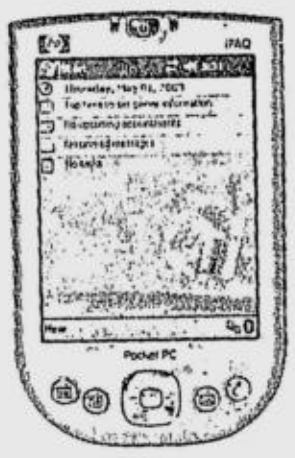

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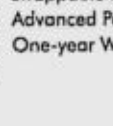

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Removable/Rechargeable 900mAh Lithium-Ion user swappable battery
One-year Worldwide Limited warranty

HP iPAQ POCKET PC h1930

PhP2,325 per month at 0% interest for 6 months

SRP: PhP13,950

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64MB SDRAM (56MB main memory)
Integrated SD expansion slot
Microsoft® Windows Mobile™ 2003 software for Pocket PC
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2188 Series of 2004

Machinery import duties slashed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG has ordered the reduction in import duties slapped on capital equipment, spare parts and accessories from a maximum of 10 percent to 1 percent.

The reduction provided under Executive Order No. 313 was expected to encourage local firms to invest in capital equipment needed to spur industry and the economy.

Signed last May 1, EO 313 covers machinery and parts imported by new and expanding enterprises registered with the Board of Investments, save for those covered under the motor vehicle development program.

Imported equipment, parts and accessories qualified for decreased duties under EO 313 include those that:

- are not manufactured locally in sufficient quantity, of comparable quality and are at reasonable prices;
- are reasonably needed and would be used exclusively by the enterprise in its registered activity, unless there is prior approval from the BOI for other uses or the proportionate taxes are paid if the equipment are used for non-registered activities;
- are approved for importation by the BOI

The order also states that the registered enterprise could not sell, transfer or dispose of the equipment without the approval of the BOI within five years from importation.

If this is violated, both the seller and the buyer would pay twice the amount of the duty exemption.

The order also tasked the BOI to coordinate with the Department of Finance, National Economic and Development Authority and the Bureau of Customs in promulgating the implementing rules of EO 313.

Last month, BOI officer in charge Elmer Hernandez said companies that rely heavily on mechanical equipment have been clamoring for the restoration of exemptions on taxes and duties.

Practically all BOI-registered companies are applying for the restoration of incentives on capital equipment, Hernandez said.

More recently, Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima had urged such firms to modernize and bring in capital equipment to remain competitive in the Southeast Asian market.

"Some of our industrial firms are inefficient because their machinery are outmoded," he said. "These firms need to prepare once the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Free Trade Area comes in full force in a few years."

Purisima said all Asean countries, except Singapore and the Philippines, grant tax and duty exemptions on imported capital.

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	30-60 days	61-90 days	91-180 days	181-364 days	1 year
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300,000 - 499,999	5.50	5.75	5.75	6.00	7.00
500,000 - 999,999	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.50	8.00
1,000,000 - 4,999,999	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	8.00
5 million and up	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00

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PCA seeks aid to tap P1.2B from coco levy fund

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINE Coconut Authority will seek the assistance of the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Coconut Industry Investment Fund to tap into the P1.2-billion dividend earnings from the shares of stocks in San Miguel Corp., which were acquired using the controversial coco levy fund.

The PCA and the PCGG have estimated that some 27 percent of equity shares in San Miguel were obtained through the use of coco levy funds paid for by over 1.2 million coconut farmers since the 1970s.

PCA Administrator Danilo Coronacion on Wednesday said that the dIvidend earnings could be more than P1.2 billion as the earnings per share of SMC have also increased this year.

"We need the funds to increase the yield of coconut farms that (may) decline by 25 percent over the next three years," said Coronacion. "(The earnings will be used to) initially finance the fertilization process of some 750,000 hectares of farmlands."

Biological tree stress has been affecting domestic coconut farms, threatening to cut down production by 25 percent every three years.

.The proposed fertilization program would actually require some P4 to P5 billion in funds.

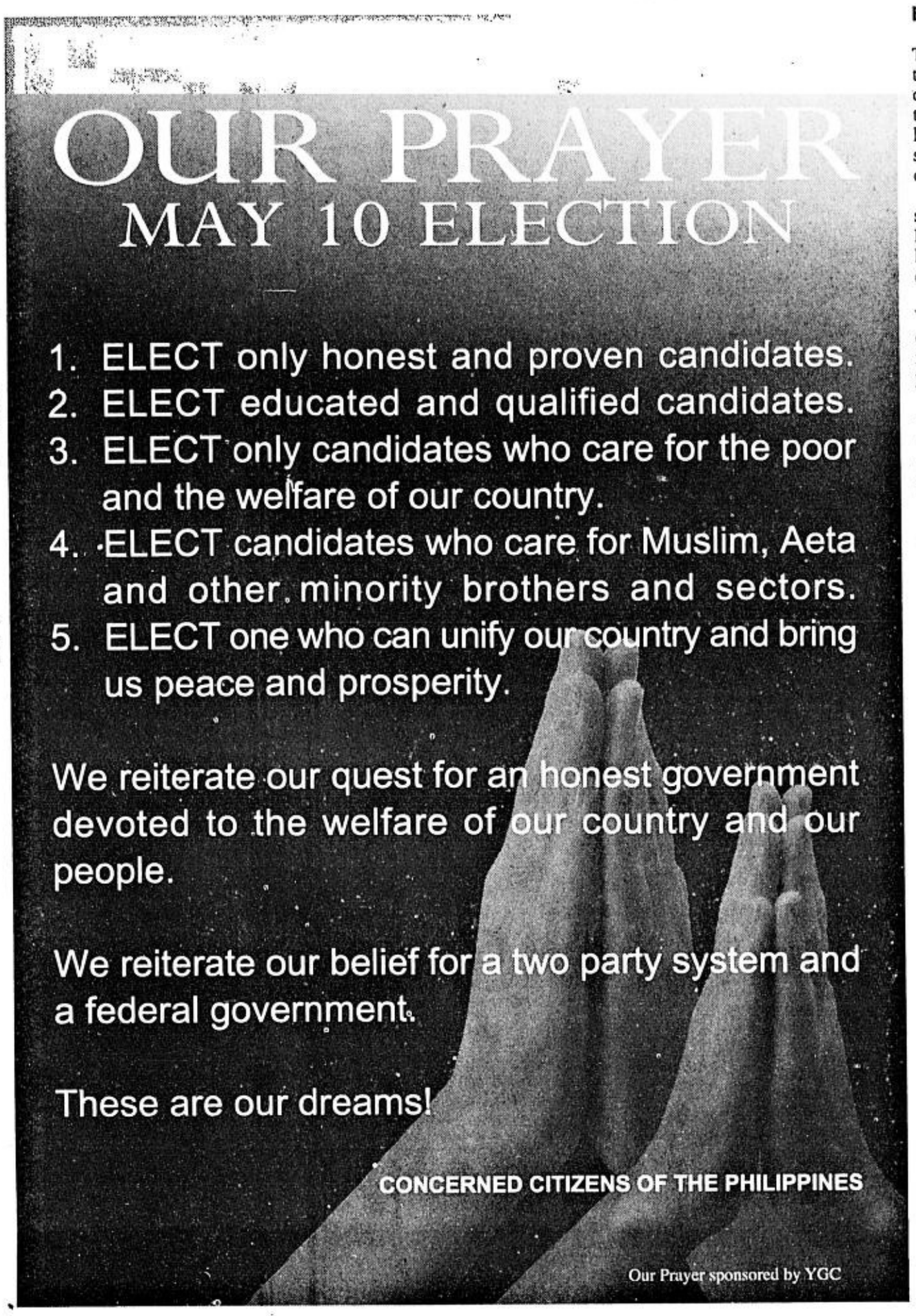
Coronacion said that the PCA is also looking for sources to fund inter-cropping programs in coconut farms so that farmers would have additional income.

There have been eight cases involving the coco levy fund filed before the Sandiganbayan since 1987.

The coconut farmers are now urging the Sandiganbayan to resolve the cases concerning the final distribution of the coco levy estimated to be worth P140 billion.

The Coconut Industry Reform Movement Inc. (COIR) said that the Sandiganbayan should now make a summary judgment on the ownership of the sequestered San Miguel Corp. shares and the various Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) oil mills before the results of the national elections.

"We don't want politics to again intervene with the coco levy cases," said Joey Faustino, COIR executive director. "We nearly lost our case during the Estrada administration."



Globe claims 740,000 new subscriptions in Mar., Apr.

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. yesterday said it had attracted in March and April 740,000 new subscribers to its network, raising hopes that the company would swiftly recover from the first quarter setback when 1.9 million Globe customers reportedly turned to its competitor.

Delayed reaction to the competitor's marketing innovations enticed Globe subscribers to switch, the officials admitted.

As of April, Globe's subscribers stood at about 9.5 million from 9.1 million by the end of the first quarter.

Globe president Gerardo Ablaza Jr. told an investors' briefing yesterday that for March and April, some 370,000 subscribers were added to their network each month.

"I hope that the worst is over and that we could sustain the trend of increased uptake in subscriber base seen in March and April," Ablaza told reporters.

From a peak of about 7 percent in February, Globe's churn rate—the percentage of subscribers disconnecting from the system—had dropped to 4.2 percent in April, according to the Globe president.

"About 70 percent of the total churn rate hit us in the first two months of the year," Ablaza said. "But the rate is down by April."

Globe said the high churn level reflected the subscribers who left the network from June to October last year when its rival, Smart Communication Inc., came up with the over-the-air reloading system, and the free swapping of SIM cards.

Smart, with about 14.4 million subscribers as of end-March, launched the e-Load and free SIM swap by the second half of 2003. Globe caught up with its Auto Load in late 2003 and the SIM swap early this year.

"It is difficult to quantify the impact of the competition to our revenues," said Delfin Gonzalez Jr., Globe chief finance officer. "But we would like to point out that our revenues increased faster in the first quarter compared to the fourth quarter of 2003."

Globe, which accounts for 40 percent of the profitable mobile phone market, posted a net income of P3.1 billion or 52 percent from about P2 billion a year ago. Revenues went up by 16 percent to P12.8 billion.

"Earnings per share increased to P21.70, 66 percent higher than the P13.08 posted in the same period in 2003, which also reflects lower shares outstanding following the 12 million share buyback late last year," the company said in a statement.

Communication, perseverance, success

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

OUR FARMERS and fisherfolk have succeeded in creating a milestone in agriculture development. They had dreamed of a time when, instead of responding to politicians with agricultural programs—where the farmers were never consulted—they would be the ones to formulate their own proposals for the politicians to consider. If this were to happen, the paradigm for farmers and fisherfolk would change from dependence to empowerment.

Over the last fifteen months, the Alyansa Agrikultura attempted to do just that. Being the largest coalition of farmers and fisherfolk with 38 national and local federations and organizations, the Alyansa undertook nationwide consultations on a proposed presidential agricultural agenda for over a year. The two-part agenda was sent to each presidential candidate in late February, before the campaign period began.

The first part is the overall agenda which includes support for agriculture, the international trade regime, and agrarian reform, the rights of women and indigenous peoples, and governance. The second part is the commodities agenda, which deals with the most important issues concerning each commodity sector. These sectors are rice, corn, sugar, fruits and vegetables, fisheries, livestock, and poultry.

Communication

The communication that occurred during these nationwide consultations was both open and constructive.

There were of course differences among the farmers and fisherfolk. But knowing that it was high time for them to form a strong and united front like the groups formed in other countries like Taiwan, Japan, the United States and the European Union, the farmers and fisherfolk chose to build on each others' suggestions instead of focusing on their disagreements.

Because of this, what emerged was a comprehensive agriculture agenda that had the unanimous consent of all stakeholders.

Areas where differences were irreconcilable (e.g., genetically modified organisms or GMOs) were left out of the agenda. In these areas, it was agreed that each organization could still pursue its own advocacy work, but this would be done outside the Alyansa framework.

Perseverance

Within one week of receipt, three of the five presidential candidates responded that they would like to discuss the agenda's recommendations. For the remaining two candidates, the answers were slow in coming.

However, realizing that what was at stake was the future of agricultural development over the next six years, the Alyansa leaders refused to give up. They persisted in securing the two candidates' responses to their proposed agenda.

In doing so, they found out that the obstacles were not the candidates themselves, but bureaucratic procedures and cordon sanitaires. With determined perseverance, the Alyansa eventually got the responses of the two candidates, and were gratified with the results.

All five candidates approved in principle the Alyansa's proposed agenda with its special attention to the small farmers and fisherfolk.

Of the agenda's six priority items, there was unanimous agreement on four. President Macapagal-Arroyo, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Raul Roco, Fernando Poe Jr. and Bro. Eddie Villanueva supported the following: 1) to freeze or increase tariffs for agriculture products in countries that have not appropriately decreased the subsidies for these products; 2) to maintain quantitative restrictions on rice importation beyond 2005 until adequate support structures are in

COMMUNICATION/B10

Taipannic dogfight

THE BATTLE for the dominance of the local skies between taipans Lucio Tan and John Gokongwei Jr. is getting to be even.

According to the pro-Gokongwei grapevine, Cebu Pacific has now snatched about 40 percent of the domestic passenger traffic from the previous monopoly hold of Philippine Airlines.

And, in its secondary hub of Cebu City, the Gokongwei airline now fields more flights than PAL and its sister airline, Air Philippines, combined.

After its lease expires, Cebu Pacific is now seriously considering between the Brazilian-made 70-seater Embraer 170 and the 106-seater Boeing 717 to replace its all-DC 9 fleet for both its local and regional destinations.

The Gokongwei airline is, incidentally, scheduled to offer starting May 21 charter flights to Xiamen, in addition to Guangzhou.

The airline also maintains scheduled flights to Hong Kong and Seoul with bottom-seeking fares and has been trying to obtain flights to crowded Tokyo amid strong and continued resistance from PAL.

As to the choice of new planes, both Embraer 170 and Boeing 717 offer more fuel efficiency and less noise and emission than the four-decades-old DC 9s. According to the grapevine, the Gokongwei have flown and tested both jets in special demo flights in Manila.

As well, both Embraer and Boeing models have taller cabin space and wider seats than the economy class seating pitch in Cebu Pacific's DC9s that induce deep vein thrombosis.

With the refleeting, Cebu Pacific should also be able to claim the title of having the youngest planes in the region.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Mr. John's real title

AND speaking of John Gokongwei Jr., the taipan may officially be retired now from the JG Summit Group but the patriarch still very much looks over the shoulders of everyone else within the family empire.

An indication of his hands-on presence was that even the proposed cover for the JG Summit annual report had to be approved by Mr. John at the sidelines of Universal Robina stockholders' meeting Tuesday, in full view of shareholders and journalists.

This prompted Universal Robina director Robert Coyiuto Jr. to joke that Mr. John's title really is Unretired Chairman and Mr. John's boardroom shingle should read, Office of the Unretired Chairman.

In short, Ouch.

Baba-u-turn

NOTWITHSTANDING the US federal approval, Saipan Gov. Juan Babauta has put up another stumbling block to the purchase by the Delgados of the island's telephone company.

Babauta, who himself is fighting for his political future, now wants the Delgados to post a $10-million performance bond prior to giving the green light to their acquisition of the Micronesian Telecommunications Co. from mainland phone giant Verizon.

To earn brownie points from the community, Micronesian Telecom, which also operates a cellular phone network, abolished long-distance rates between Saipan and neighboring commonwealth islands of Rota and Tinian, preparatory to the Delgado acquisition.

But the goodwill gesture is apparently not enough for Babauta, who, if we were to believe the grapevine, would rather have a local group of friends/businessmen acquire the phone company instead.

Heard through the grapevine

PRAYER for the week: May Pacquiao win and FPJ lose but better still if they're the ones slugging it out in the ring. Amen. *(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

RP debt hit P4.13T in Feb.

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL government's outstanding debt grew to P4.13 trillion in February, from P4.12 trillion the previous month, as the government continued to engage in borrowings to help meet its budget requirement for the year.

According to data from the Department of Finance, the total debt figure included the P3.407 trillion in actual liabilities of the national government and the P723 billion in contingent liabilities.

Contingent liabilities are loans secured by government-owned or -controlled corporations and government financial institutions that are guaranteed by the national government. The GFIs and GOCCs included the Philippine National Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines and the National Power Corp.

The DOF data also showed that the increase in the government's debt was brought about by an increase in both domestic and foreign borrowings. The total February debt figure was composed of P1.78 trillion worth of domestic borrowings and P2.35 trillion worth of foreign borrowings.

The government is targeting to limit its domestic borrowings for the whole year to P1.924 trillion, and its external borrowings to P2.595 trillion.

For the whole year, the government is hoping that the country's debt-stock would be contained below the ceiling of P4.52 trillion.

The increase in the debt stock was also partly attributed to the slight fall of the peso against the dollar from January to February. The exchange rate used in determining the total amount of foreign borrowings in February was P56.25 to $1, compared with the P56 to $1 used in January.

The national government's debt level indicates the total amount of liabilities it incurred over the years. The liabilities include the borrowings the government had to make to bridge the gap between revenue collection and expenditure.

Peso hits 4-mo high

From page B1

A trader from a local bank said the BSP's aggressive buying of dollars tempered the peso's appreciation.

The peso rallied for three consecutive days as surveys showed President Macapagal-Arroyo gaining lead over her rivals.

"The foreign exchange market was marked by some short-covering before the weekend and a strong demand from airlines and manufacturing enterprises," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Another source from the Monetary Board said the BSP had been a net buyer of dollars since April.

The BSP's dollar purchases, along with the foreign exchange remittances from overseas Filipino workers and public sector borrowings, are seen to boost the institution's international reserves and the country's balance of payment position for the month of April. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week May 04, 2004 / Last Week April 27, 2004
Bond Fund - Peso	1.14273 / 1.14642
Managed Fund - Peso	1.20431 / 1.21138
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0071 / 1.0174

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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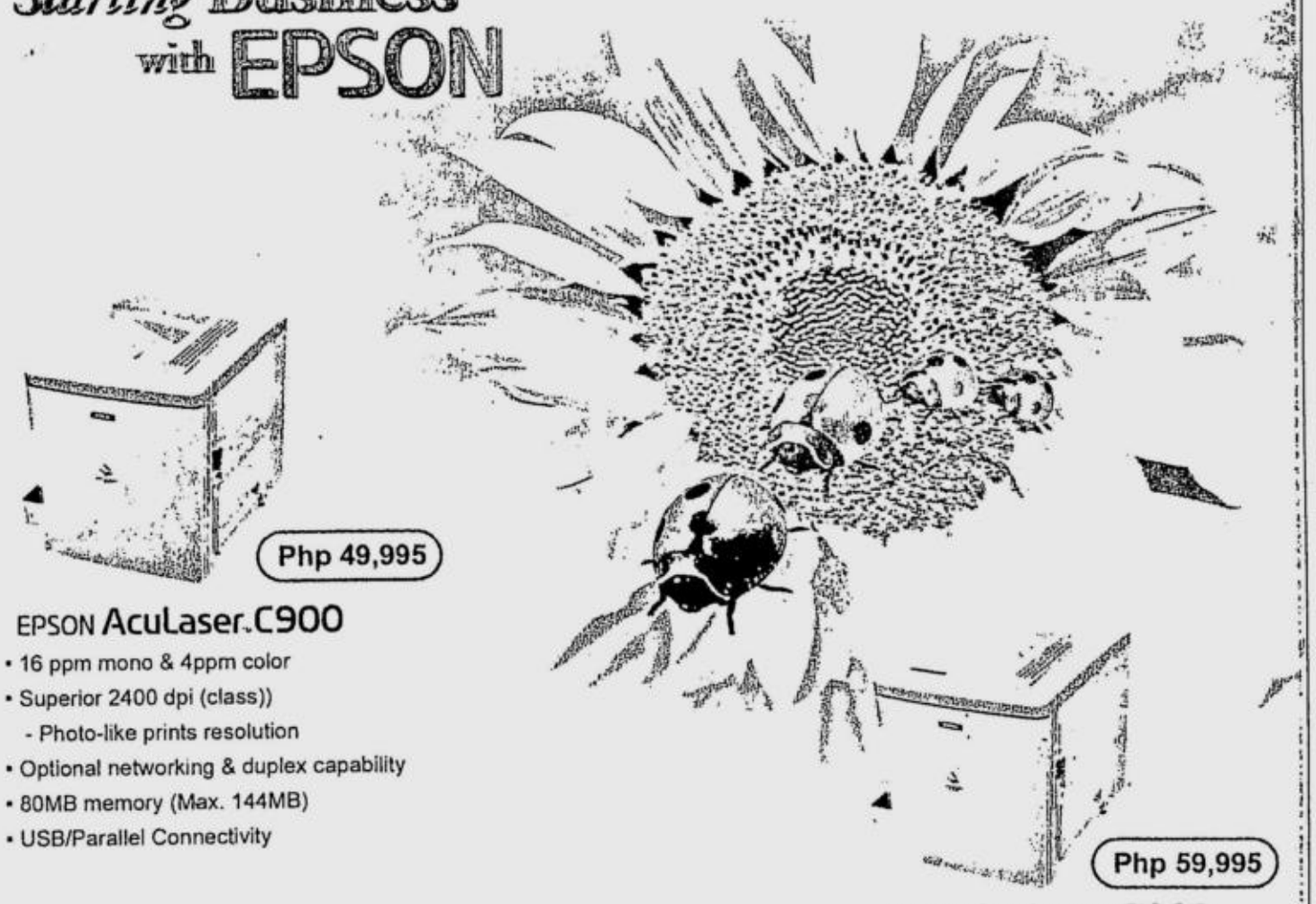

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Retail firms scramble to catch buyers' eye

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DEVELOPING a quality product that consumers will buy is just one part of the retail equation. The other, equally tricky part, is catching the buyers' interest considering the myriad choices in the marketplace.

Installing the right kind of point-of-purchase visuals often tells the difference between getting the customers' money and watching them walk away.

Russ Alfonso, managing director of RS Concepts, one of the country's leading providers of POP visuals or non-traditional advertising, says in an interview that more local companies are getting hooked on the idea of investing in POP visuals and the quality of the visuals of those that do, are at par or even exceed others in Asia.

New trends

Alfonso says that companies such as Unilever and Procter and Gamble have usually been the first to embrace new trends in visuals, particularly in the personal care category.

"This is brought about by the large selection of goods available to the consumer, as well as the need for the companies to maintain their brand image particularly on the shop floor," Alfonso says.

Consumers, thus, will see many of the supermarket floors with pop-out ads along the shelves to point their attention to a particular company's products.

Given a whole shelf full of products from different companies under the same category, having that extra advertising push at the shelf such as a three-dimensional display and moving display will usually get the consumers to put that product in their shopping cart.

Faced with heavy rush hour traffic that leaves many Filipinos on the road for more than three hours a day, the battlefield for the consumers' money has also widened to include the streets.

As a result, the metropolis is saturated with big and bold billboards with a minimum size of 40 ft. by 60 ft. A variant is the use of train wraps where whole trains are covered with photographic images of consumer products.

The Philippines also has a range of transit ads strategically deployed in buses and trains by advertisers such as Fuji-YKL and Unilever.

First impression

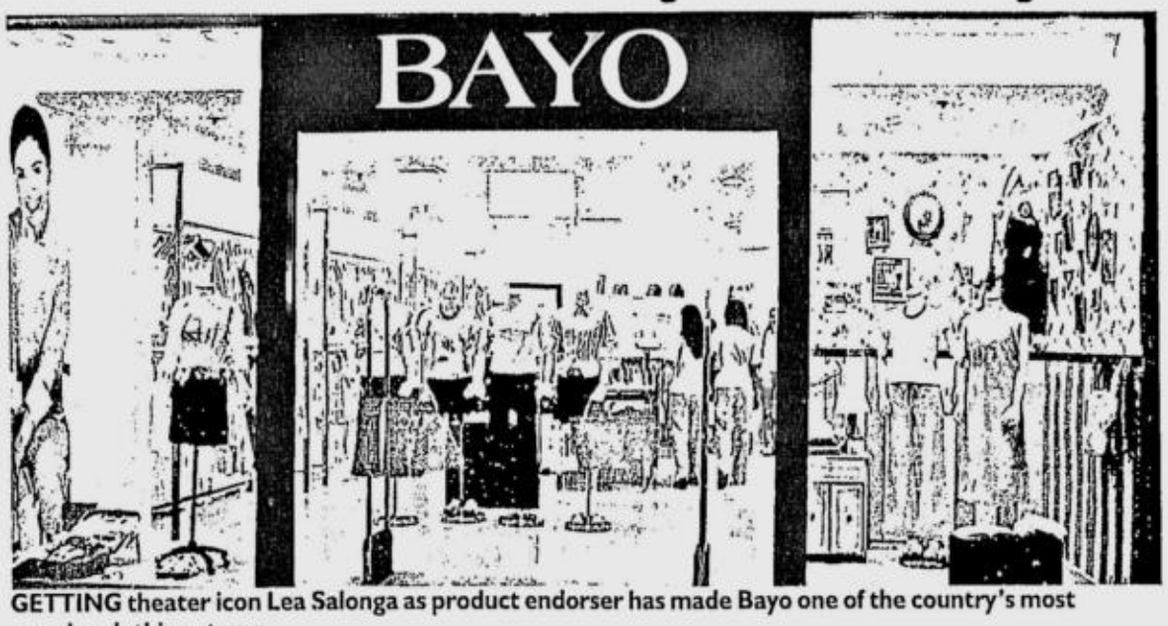
Getting a retail store to stand out among similar stores lining the country's many malls is an equally daunting challenge and visuals play a significant differentiating role.

Having the right look and investing in eye-catching visuals helped Bayo become one of the country's leading clothing stores. The Philippine Franchising Association has even named it the Outstanding Filipino Franchise in Retail during the recent awards night.

Passing through it along the mall, one is immediately struck by Bayo's clean look and display of clothes that entice a customer to come in.

Bayo visual merchandiser Jo-Ann Tuason explains that Bayo believes in creating the proper first impression and that is formed when one looks at the store.

"We believe that our window display and the overall concept of the store should always reflect our line. We do extensive research for that," Tuason says.



GETTING theater icon Lea Salonga as product endorser has made Bayo one of the country's most popular clothing stores.

Bayo has today become a byword for clean and classic clothes for the modern Filipina.

It is owned by Lyncor Inc., an all-Filipino firm engaged in the retail of women's apparel and accessories. The company put up Bayo to become a testament of what a Filipino firm can do in today's competitive retail environment.

Its goal is to penetrate the global market and promote it as a Filipino brand.

Bayo is well on its way, having established 30 branches in all key shopping malls nationwide, seven of which are owned by franchisees.

Visual identity

Food companies are not spared from the challenge of developing a fresh look to cater to their target markets.

Greenwich Pizza Corp., one of the country's leading pizza chains, is one of these companies that spent millions of pesos to change its look to complement the change in its visual identity.

"Just like a good brand, our Greenwich stores had to be appropriately packaged and they must protect the image of the brand—that of youth and vitality. Since we promised good food in a fun dining atmosphere, our store look, colors, fixtures and elements had to communicate all that," explains Greenwich marketing director Ma. Rosario C. Caluya.

Greenwich used to look traditional with dark greens, white, black and shades of red, which was inviting and got customers going into its stores.

When the Jollibee group decided on the rebranding, it modified the look but kept the green and red.

"I think the market's response to all these is most evident whenever we open a new Greenwich store, or for that matter, whenever we reopen a Greenwich store that has been renovated. Our customers have embraced the new look and keep coming back for more," Caluya says.

TRANSIT ads on the go

GREENWICH'S new face

Withholding tax rules amendments

By Jose A. Osana and Venice H. Segarra
SGV & Co.

(First of two parts)

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance, upon the recommendation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), has again amended withholding tax regulations.

Revenue Regulations No. (RR) 30-2003 dated Dec. 12, 2003 amends certain provisions of RR 2-98, providing for, among others, withholding tax as a mode of remitting final capital gains tax on the sale of real property classified as capital assets by non-resident aliens, increase in the withholding tax rates on certain income payments, inclusion of non-food products in the coverage of expanded withholding tax and sanctions to payees who refuse the withholding of tax on their income/receipts.

TAX-FILES

In addition, RR 1-2004 dated Jan. 14, 2004 exempts marginal income earners from creditable withholding tax on payments made by hotels, restaurants, resorts caterers and all other establishments.

Sale of real property

RR 30-2003 provides that in case of installment sale of real property classified as capital assets by non-resident aliens, the procedures under Section 2.57.2 (J) of RR 2-98, on the sale of real property classified as ordinary asset shall apply with the exception that the 6 percent withholding tax on the non-resident aliens shall be final as opposed to being creditable.

Thus, if a non-resident alien sells his/her real property classified as capital assets on an installment plan, then the following rules shall apply:

1. If the buyer is an individual not engaged in trade or is engaged in trade or business in the Philippines, no withholding is required to be made on the periodic installments.

In this case, the tax shall be withheld by the buyer on the last installment, or installments immediately prior to the last installment (if it is not sufficient to cover the tax due) to be paid to the non-resident alien seller until the tax is fully paid.

In this regard, the applicable tax rate shall be based on the gross selling price or fair market value (FMV) of the property at the time of the execution of the Contract to Sell, whichever is higher.

2. If the buyer is engaged in trade or business, whether a corporation or otherwise, the tax shall be deducted and withheld by the buyer from every installment.

The tax to be withheld shall be based on the ratio of the actual collection of the payment against the agreed payment as stated in the Contract to Sell applied to the gross selling price or FMV of the property at the time of the execution of the Contract to Sell, whichever is higher.

In both cases, the Contract to Sell must be attached to the Deed of Absolute Sale and presented to the RDO having jurisdiction over the property for validation of the correctness of payment of all applicable taxes before the issuance of the Certificate Authorizing Registration (CAR)/Tax Clearance (TCL).

Moreover, payment of the documentary stamp tax (DST) shall accrue upon the execution of the Deed of Absolute Sale but the basis shall be the gross selling price or the FMV of the property, whichever is higher, at the time of the execution of the Contract to Sell. (Section 2.57.2(J), RR 2-98, as amended.)

Furthermore, under RR 30-2003, it was emphasized that the final tax of 6 percent shall be on the presumed capital gains from the sale of the property and not from the actual gain derived from the sale.

Increase in withholding tax rates

Certain income payments are now subjected to a higher withholding tax rate, as follows:

A. Professional fees, talent fees, etc., for services rendered by individuals

RR 30-2003 subjects these fees to a 15 percent withholding tax rate (reduced from 20 percent) if the gross income for the current year exceeds P720,000 or the 10 percent if the gross income for the current year is P720,000 and below.

In this connection, the enumeration of individuals engaged in the practice of profession or calling was expanded further to include designers and all other professions requiring government licensure examination and/or regulated by the Professional Regulations Commission, Supreme Court, etc..

Lyricists and composers have likewise been included in the list of professional entertainers who are now subject to withholding tax at these rates as well as producers involved in movies, stage, radio, television and musical productions.

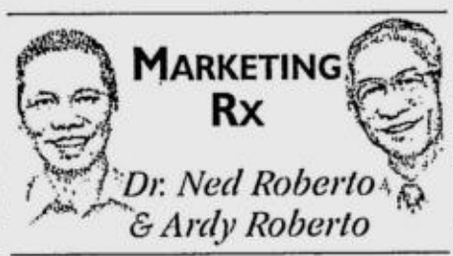
To determine the applicable tax rate, individual professional/talent/corporate directors enumerated in the regulations shall periodically disclose his gross income for the current year to the BIR by submitting a notarized sworn declaration in three copies (two copies for the BIR and one copy for the taxpayer), copy furnished all the current payors of the declaration duly stamped received by the BIR (Collection Division of the Regional Office having jurisdiction over the place where the income earner is registered (Large Taxpayers Collection Division for large taxpayers in Metro Manila/LTDO for large taxpayers outside Metro Manila).

The sworn declaration may be filed by the payor of the income on behalf of the professionals/talents/directors whose services were being rendered exclusively to such payor.

The disclosure should be filed on June 30 of each year or within 15 days after the end of the month the professional/talent/directors income reaches P720,000, whichever comes earlier.

(To be continued)

Communicating creatively



THIS question applies to both social marketers and entrepreneurs (who like to do everything-including creatives—by themselves).

Advocacy marketer, Gianna Montinola, e-mailed this question to us after reading our column two Fridays ago ("Marketing for non-profit causes: (or the victims of cell phone theft unite! case"):

"How do you market the advocacy of volunteerism which is not as popular in the Philippines as it is in the US? Even among donor corporations, the favorites are literacy, the environment, abuse of children, education, health care. . . I also devote my time to heritage causes that I feel is weak in this country."

Delegate your creatives

Many times, advocacy marketers can get so fired up and frustrated when they don't get the desired response from their target market-or the people whose behavior they are trying to change (from apathy to activism, for example) or raise funds from.

Before you get too frustrated (and when you're sure about having identified the correct target market/stakeholder) look at how you've been communicating your cause to them. That may be the problem.

Social marketers are like entrepreneurs. They like to do everything themselves (from creating advertising copy to collecting checks). This, of course, stems from a lack of funding. But before you get burned out doing everything yourself, get help from some communications experts.

There are copywriters and creative agencies who are willing to lend their services to non-profits at non-profit rates (if not pro-bono). So go ahead and ask!

Once you understand your target stakeholders' correct and true value, you have to go out and "create" and communicate that value.

This is the job of the "creative" copywriters in your friendly neighborhood advertising agency.

It's a job of communicating the correct motivating value to your target stakeholders. (And doing it in such a compelling fashion.)

Here are two case studies of how two campaigns were saved from going to dogs by simply expressing their message in a more creative way.

The lord of the flies

A medical advisory from a government city health office wanted to get families to take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of diseases associated with the abundance of flies during summer.

Here is the communication piece it developed and posted in public places:

To: All concerned

Now that summer is here again, this is a reminder to one and all to please remember to cover your food, eating and drinking utensils, and most of all, your dustbins.

Flies will again be with us and they are among the worst carriers of germs and bacteria. Their touch on your food and your eating and drinking utensils can lead to serious but preventable ailments like diarrhea, food poisoning, indigestion, amoebiasis, Hepatitis A and B, dysentery and many others.

Should any of these infections occur, consult your nearest health center immediately.

For your information and compliance.

As can be expected, the communication came to its target audience as no more than the usual "FYI" item.

Its matter-of-fact and formal tone did not attract enough people among its target audience to go beyond the stage of awareness of its message—much less motivate them to heed its call for action.

A social advocacy marketing professor saw the poster and took it to his ad agency creative friend.

Challenged to do a better job at "creating the value" in the medical advisory's message, the professor's creative director friend transformed the communication piece into one that's for persuasion and not only for information.

The reformatted poster said the same message but in the following attention-getting and attention-holding way:

This is what happens
when a fly lands on your food.
Flies can't eat solid food,
so to soften it up they vomit on it.
Then they stamp the vomit in
until it's a liquid; usually stamping
in a few germs for good measure.
Then when it's good and runny
they suck it all back again, probably
dropping some excrement at the
same time.
And then, when they've finished
eating, it's your turn.

(Then a picture of a plate of uncovered lunch food with two flies doing their thing and one fly hovering around is shown and right below is the following "call to action.")

"Cover food. Cover eating and drinking utensils. Cover dustbins."

So the lesson is again simple. If you don't have the necessary creative communication skills, then get help from the appropriate professional in accomplishing the task of "creating value."

The next example is a favorite of the junior MRx. This is from the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

PAWS simply wanted to raise money to build shelters for stray dogs. Now, how do you get sympathy and action from an apathetic people who live in a country where dogs are eaten?

Well, PAWS approached BCD Pinpoint, a creative direct marketing agency founded and owned by Dickie Soriano (one of the few to win a platinum at the Ad Congress' Araw Awards for direct mail copywriting). Dickie, who worked on UNICEF's direct mail fund raising projects when he was managing director of Ogilvy-One, took on PAWS as a client on a pro-bono basis.

But even if he didn't charge for his creative services, PAWS still had a problem. They didn't have any budget for advertising media or even for printing a direct mail campaign.

So instead of creating the usual direct mail letter pleading for money to save dogs from the streets, Dickie and his team thought of a low-cost way of driving the message to a select few companies (instead of individuals) who had a stake in the pet food market.

What BCD did was create a "direct mail" pack made out of old sacks on which the words "Caution: Hard-to-Swallow Truth Inside" spray painted in red.

The sack contained a dos por dos (2"x2" scrap of wood which they got for free from some junk yard) and a personalized letter that told of the brutal and prevalent practice of putting stray dogs in a sack, clubbing them to death, before roasting and eating them.

There was no mailing cost since volunteers of PAWS delivered this unique direct mail package to their targeted stake holders.

Expenses totaled P600 for the sacks and the personalized letters. For this investment, PAWS got a 55-percent person response rate and raised P165,000. Manila's stray dogs got a shelter built in Marikina.

Dickie and his agency got a couple of international awards, including a Caples from New York and a Lion from Cannes. So everybody won. All it took was a creative way of communicating the message.

So before you're tempted to write that ad, or sales or fund raising letter yourself, think twice. Get some help.

Email your questions or comments to MarketingRx@SaltandLightVentures.com. Or text us at 0919-314-5412. BCD's Dickie Soriano can be reached at 899-5560.

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Retail firms scramble to catch buyers' eye

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DEVELOPING a quality product that consumers will buy is just one part of the retail equation. The other, equally tricky part, is catching the buyers' interest considering the myriad choices in the marketplace.

Installing the right kind of point-of-purchase visuals often tells the difference between getting the customers' money and watching them walk away.

Russ Alfonso, managing director of RS Concepts, one of the country's leading providers of POP visuals or non-traditional advertising, says in an interview that more local companies are getting hooked on the idea of investing in POP visuals and the quality of the visuals of those that do, are at par or even exceed others in Asia.

New trends

Alfonso says that companies such as Unilever and Procter and Gamble have usually been the first to embrace new trends in visuals, particularly in the personal care category.

"This is brought about by the large selection of goods available to the consumer, as well as the need for the companies to maintain their brand image particularly on the shop floor," Alfonso says.

Consumers, thus, will see many of the supermarket floors with pop-out ads along the shelves to point their attention to a particular company's products.

Given a whole shelf full of products from different companies under the same category, having that extra advertising push at the shelf such as a three-dimensional display and moving display will usually get the consumers to put that product in their shopping cart.

Faced with heavy rush hour traffic that leaves many Filipinos on the road for more than three hours a day, the battlefield for the consumers' money has also widened to include the streets.

As a result, the metropolis is saturated with big and bold billboards with a minimum size of 40 ft. by 60 ft. A variant is the use of train wraps where whole trains are covered with photographic images of consumer products.

The Philippines also has a range of transit ads strategically deployed in buses and trains by advertisers such as Fuji-YKL and Unilever.

First impression

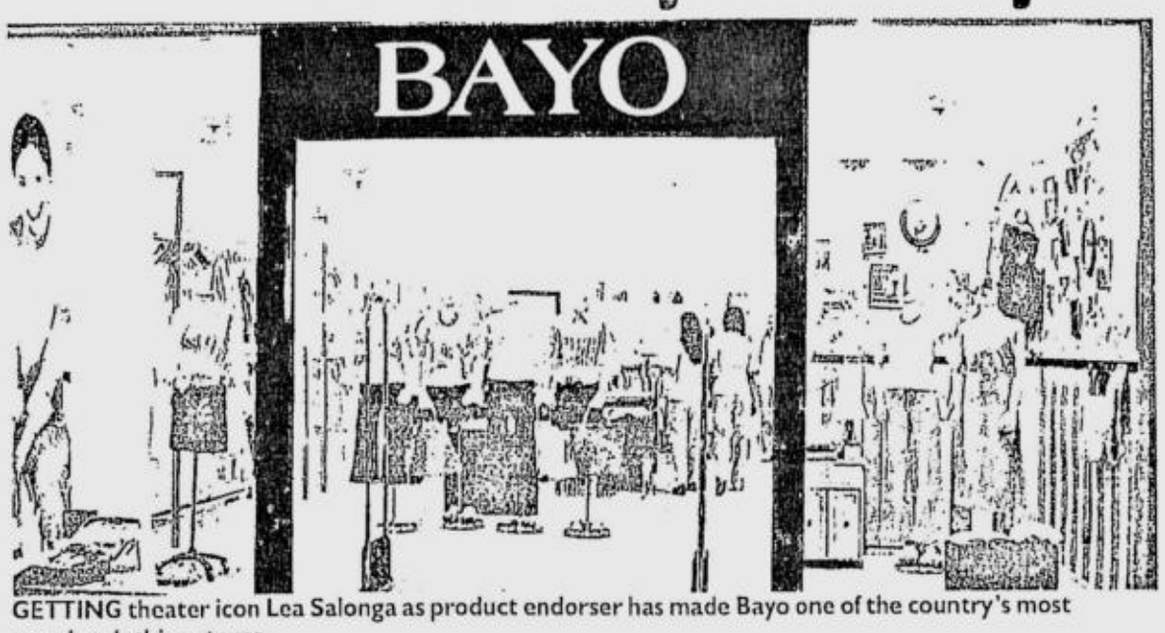
Getting a retail store to stand out among similar stores lining the country's many malls is an equally daunting challenge and visuals play a significant differentiating role.

Having the right look and investing in eye-catching visuals helped Bayo become one of the country's leading clothing stores. The Philippine Franchising Association has even named it the Outstanding Filipino Franchise in Retail during the recent awards night.

Passing through it along the mall, one is immediately struck by Bayo's clean look and display of clothes that entice a customer to come in.

Bayo visual merchandiser Jo-Ann Tuason explains that Bayo believes in creating the proper first impression and that is formed when one looks at the store.

"We believe that our window display and the overall concept of the store should always reflect our line. We do extensive research for that," Tuason says.



GETTING theater icon Lea Salonga as product endorser has made Bayo one of the country's most popular clothing stores.

Bayo has today become a byword for clean and classic clothes for the modern Filipina.

It is owned by Lyncor Inc., an all-Filipino firm engaged in the retail of women's apparel and accessories. The company put up Bayo to become a testament of what a Filipino firm can do in today's competitive retail environment.

Its goal is to penetrate the global market and promote it as a Filipino brand.

Bayo is well on its way, having established 30 branches in all key shopping malls nationwide, seven of which are owned by franchisees.

Visual identity

Food companies are not spared from the challenge of developing a fresh look to cater to their target markets.

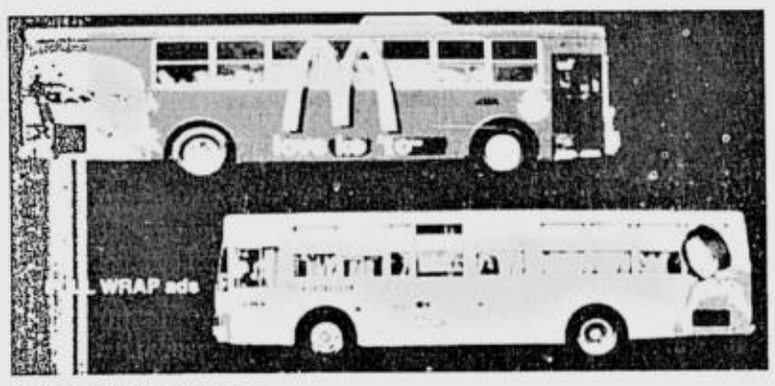
Greenwich Pizza Corp., one of the country's leading pizza chains, is one of these companies that spent millions of pesos to change its look to complement the change in its visual identity.

"Just like a good brand, our Greenwich stores had to be appropriately packaged and they must protect the image of the brand—that of youth and vitality. Since we promised good food in a fun dining atmosphere, our store look, colors, fixtures and elements had to communicate all that," explains Greenwich marketing director Ma. Rosario C. Caluya.

Greenwich used to look traditional with dark greens, white, black and shades of red, which was inviting and got customers going into its stores.

When the Jollibee group decided on the rebranding, it modified the look but kept the green and red.

"I think the market's response to all these is most evident whenever we open a new Greenwich store, or for that matter, whenever we reopen a Greenwich store that has been renovated. Our customers have embraced the new look and keep coming back for more," Caluya says.



TRANSIT ads on the go

GREENWICH'S new face

Withholding tax rules amendments

By Jose A. Osana and Venice H. Segarra
SGV & Co.

(First of two parts)

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance, upon the recommendation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), has again amended withholding tax regulations.

Revenue Regulations No. (RR) 30-2003 dated Dec. 12, 2003 amends certain provisions of RR 2-98, providing for, among others, withholding tax as a mode of remitting final capital gains tax on the sale of real property classified as capital assets by non-resident aliens, increase in the withholding tax rates on certain income payments, inclusion of non-food products in the coverage of expanded withholding tax and sanctions to payees who refuse the withholding of tax on their income receipts.

TAX-FILES

In addition, RR 1-2004 dated Jan. 14, 2004 exempts marginal income earners from creditable withholding tax on payments made by hotels, restaurants, resorts, caterers and all other establishments.

Sale of real property

RR 30-2003 provides that in case of installment sale of real property classified as capital assets by non-resident aliens, the procedures under Section 2.57.2 (J) of RR 2-98, on the sale of real property classified as ordinary asset shall apply with the exception that the 6 percent withholding tax on the non-resident aliens shall be final as opposed to being creditable.

This is if a non-resident alien sells his/her real property classified as capital assets on an installment plan, then the following rules shall apply:

1. If the buyer is an individual not engaged in trade or is engaged in trade or business in the Philippines, no withholding is required to be made on the periodic installments.

In this case, the tax shall be withheld by the buyer on the last installment, or installments immediately prior to the last installment (if it is not sufficient to cover the tax due) to be paid to the non-resident alien seller until the tax is fully paid.

In this regard, the applicable tax rate shall be based on the gross selling price or fair market value (FMV) of the property at the time of the execution of the Contract to Sell, whichever is higher.

2. If the buyer is engaged in trade or business, whether a corporation or otherwise, the tax shall be deducted and withheld by the buyer from every installment.

The tax to be withheld shall be based on the ratio of the actual collection of the payment against the agreed payment as stated in the Contract to Sell applied to the gross selling price or FMV of the property at the time of the execution of the Contract to Sell, whichever is higher.

In both cases, the Contract to Sell must be attached to the Deed of Absolute Sale and ... to the RDO having jurisdiction over the property for validation of the correctness of payment of all applicable taxes before the issuance of the Certificate Authorizing Registration (CAR)/Tax Clearance (TCL).

Moreover, payment of the documentary stamp tax (DST) shall accrue upon the execution of the Deed of Absolute Sale but the basis shall be the gross selling price or the FMV of the property, whichever is higher, at the time of the execution of the Contract to Sell. (Section 2.57.2(J), RR 2-98, as amended.)

Furthermore, under RR 30-2003, it was emphasized that the final tax of 6 percent shall be on the presumed capital gains from the sale of the property and not from the actual gain derived from the sale.

Increase in withholding tax rates

Certain income payments are now subjected to a higher withholding tax rate, as follows:

A. Professional fees, talent fees, etc., for services rendered by individuals

RR 30-2003 subjects these fees to a 15 percent withholding tax rate (reduced from 20 percent) if the gross income for the current year exceeds P720,000 or the 10 percent if the gross income for the current year is P720,000 and below.

In this connection, the enumeration of individuals engaged in the practice of profession or calling was expanded further to include designers and all other professions requiring government licensure examination and/or regulated by the Professional Regulations Commission, Supreme Court, etc.

Lyricists and composers have likewise been included in the list of professional entertainers who are now subject to withholding tax at these rates as well as producers involved in movies, stage, radio, television and musical productions.

To determine the applicable tax rate, individual professional/talent/corporate directors enumerated in the regulations shall periodically disclose his gross income for the current year to the BIR by submitting a notarized sworn declaration in three copies (two copies for the BIR and one copy for the taxpayer), copy furnished all the current payors of the declaration duly stamped received by the BIR (Collection Division of the Regional Office having jurisdiction over the place where the income earner is registered (Large Taxpayers Collection Division for large taxpayers in Metro Manila/LTDO for large taxpayers outside Metro Manila).

The sworn declaration may be filed by the payor of the income on behalf of the professionals/talents/directors whose services were being rendered exclusively to such payor.

The disclosure should be filed on June 30 of each year or within 15 days after the end of the month the professional/talent/directors income reaches P720,000, whichever comes ...

(To be continued)

Communicating creatively

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

THIS question applies to both social marketers and entrepreneurs (who like to do everything-including creatives—by themselves).

Advocacy marketer, Gianna Montinola, e-mailed this question to us after reading our column two Fridays ago ("Marketing for non-profit causes: for the victims of cell phone theft unite! case").

"How do you market the advocacy of volunteerism which is not as popular in the Philippines as it is in the US? Even among donor corporations, the favorites are literacy, the environment, abuse of children, education, health care. . . I also devote my time to heritage causes that I feel is weak in this country."

Delegate your creatives

Many times, advocacy marketers can get so fired up and frustrated when they don't get the desired response from their target market-or the people whose behavior they are trying to change (from apathy to activism, for example) or raise funds from.

Before you get too frustrated (and when you're sure about having identified the correct target market, stakeholder) look at how you've been communicating your cause to them. That may be the problem.

Social marketers are like entrepreneurs. They like to do everything themselves (from creating advertising copy to collecting checks). This, of course, stems from a lack of funding. But before you get burned out doing everything yourself, get help from some communications experts.

There are copywriters and creative agencies who are willing to lend their services to non-profits at non-profit rates (if not pro-bono). So go ahead and ask!

Once you understand your target stakeholders' correct and true value, you have to go out and "create" and communicate that value.

This is the job of the "creative" copywriters in your friendly neighborhood advertising agency.

It's a job of communicating the correct motivating value to your target stakeholders. (And doing it in such a compelling fashion.)

Here are two case studies of how two campaigns were saved from going to dogs by simply expressing their message in a more creative way.

The lord of the flies

A medical advisory from a government city health office wanted to get families to take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of diseases associated with the abundance of flies during summer.

Here is the communication piece it ... places.

To: All concerned

Now that summer is here again, this is a reminder to one and all to please remember to cover your food, eating and drinking utensils, and most of all, your dustbins.

Flies will again be with us and they are among the worst carriers of germs and bacteria. Their touch on your food and your eating and drinking utensils can lead to serious but preventable ailments like diarrhea, food poisoning, indigestion, amoebiasis, Hepatitis A and B, dysentery and many others.

Should any of these infections occur, consult your nearest health center immediately.

For your information and compliance.

As can be expected, the communication came to its target audience as no more than the usual "FYI" item.

Its matter-of-fact and formal tone did not attract enough people among its target audience to go beyond the stage of awareness of its message—much less motivate them to heed its call for action.

A social advocacy marketing professor saw the poster and took it to his ad agency creative friend.

Challenged to do a better job at "creating the value" in the medical advisory's message, the professor's creative director friend transformed the communication piece into one that's for persuasion and not only for information.

The reformatted poster said the same message but in the following attention-getting and attention-holding way:

This is what happens
when a fly lands on your food.
Flies can't eat solid food,
so to soften it up they vomit on it.
Then they stamp the vomit in
until it's a liquid; usually stamping
in a few germs for good measure.
Then when it's good and runny
they suck it all back again, probably
dropping some excrement at the
same time.
And then, when they've finished
eating, it's your turn.

Then a picture of a plate of uncovered lunch food with two flies doing their thing and one fly hovering around is shown and right below is the following "call to action":

"Cover food. Cover eating and ... [illegible]

So the lesson is again simple. If you don't have the necessary creative communication skills, then get help from the appropriate professional in accomplishing the task of "creating value."

The next example is a favorite of the junior MRx. This is from the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

PAWS simply wanted to raise money to build shelters for stray dogs. Now, how do you get sympathy and action from an apathetic people who live in a country where dogs are eaten?

Well, PAWS approached BCD Pinpoint, a creative direct marketing agency founded and owned by Dickie Soriano (one of the few to win a platinum at the Ad Congress' Araw Awards for direct mail copywriting). Dickie, who worked on UNICEF's direct mail fund raising projects when he was managing director of Ogilvy-One, took on PAWS as a client on a pro-bono basis.

But even if he didn't charge for his creative services, PAWS still had a problem. They didn't have any budget for advertising media or even for printing a direct mail campaign.

So instead of creating the usual direct mail letter pleading for money to save dogs from the streets, Dickie and his team thought of a low-cost way of driving the message to a select few companies (instead of individuals) who had a stake in the pet food market.

What BCD did was create a "direct mail" pack made out of old sacks on which the words "Caution: Hard-to-Swallow Truth Inside" spray painted in red.

The sack contained a dos por dos (2"x2" scrap of wood which they got for free from some junk yard) and a personalized letter that told of the brutal and prevalent practice of putting stray dogs in a sack, clubbing them to death, before roasting and eating them.

There was no mailing cost since volunteers of PAWS delivered this unique direct mail package to their targeted stake holders.

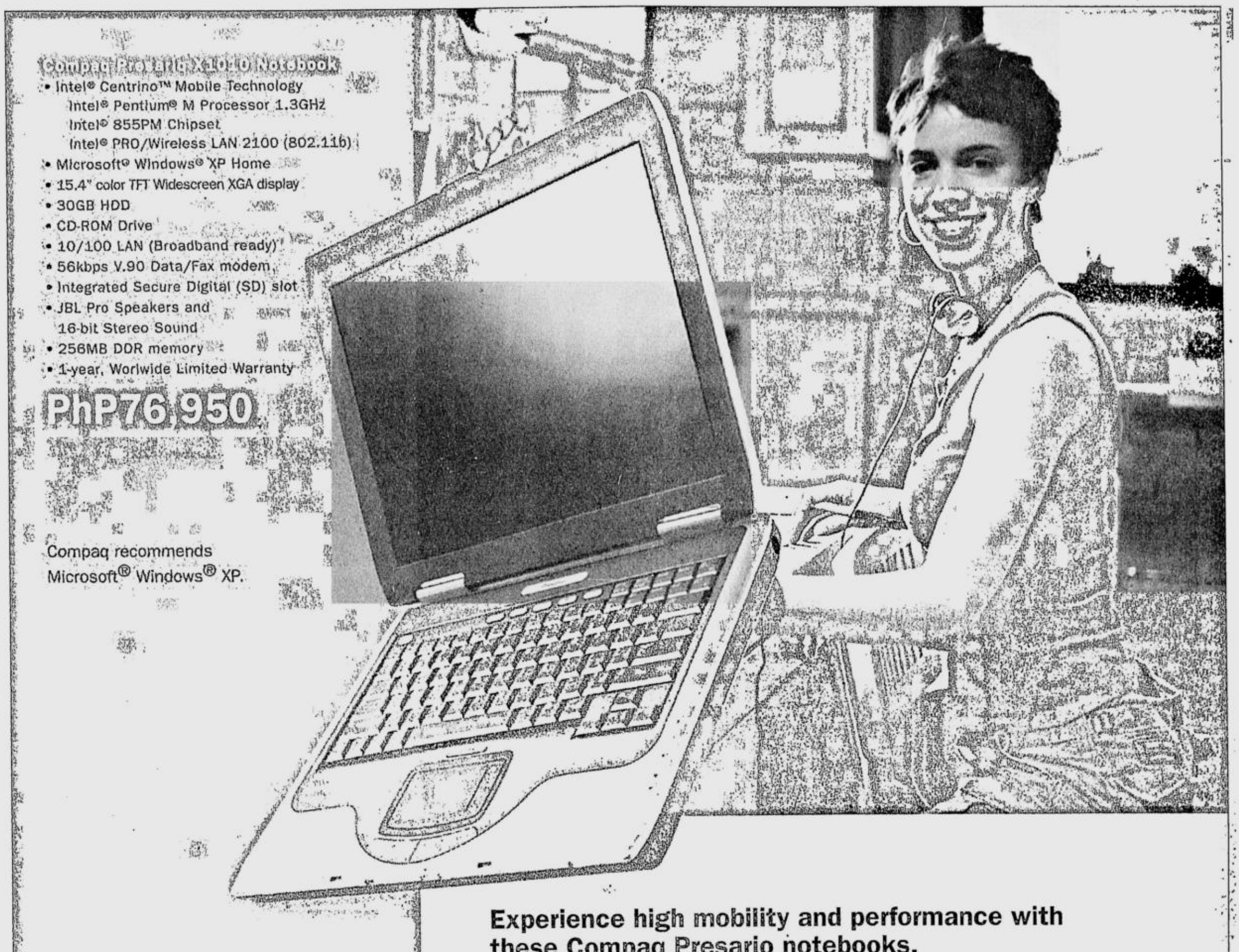
Expenses totaled P600 for the sacks and the personalized letters. For this investment, PAWS got a 55 percent person response rate and raised P165,000. Manila's stray dogs got a shelter built in Marikina.

Dickie and his agency got a couple of international awards, including a Caples from New York and a Lion from Cannes. So everybody won. All it took was a creative way of communicating the message.

So before you're tempted to write that ad, or sales or fund raising letter yourself, think twice. Get some help.

Email your questions or comments to MarketingRx@SaltandLightVenture.com. Or text us at 0919-514-5412. BCD's Dickie Soriano can be ...

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



Compaq R4 Ultra X10-0 Notebook

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 1.3GHz
  - Intel® 855PM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless LAN 2100 (802.11b)
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- 15.4" color TFT Widescreen XGA display
- 30GB HDD
- CD-ROM Drive
- 10/100 LAN (Broadband ready)
- 56kbps V.90 Data/Fax modem
- Integrated Secure Digital (SD) slot
- JBL Pro Speakers and 16-bit Stereo Sound
- 256MB DDR memory
- 1-year, Worlwide Limited Warranty

PhP76,950

Compaq recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP.

Experience high mobility and performance with these Compaq Presario notebooks.

Powered by Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology, the Compaq Presario X1010, is the home notebook that satisfies the needs of even desktop fanatics. Remarkably lightweight, the unit has built-in features at par with most PC's. It's equipped with multi-media tools that allow you to exercise your creativity and get some entertainment at home. Download movie trailers, listen to CD's and MP3 files, upload digital photographs, and watch your favorite movies. Do all these, anywhere and anytime you want. Now, if it's connectivity you need, the Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology allows you to work, play and connect without wires. Log on to the internet and email documents via wireless LAN in wi-fi enabled coffee shops, restaurants, and other hot spots. Now you're able to keep in touch with friends across the globe or simply have fun surfing the net. And since everyone has different needs when it comes to mobility, you can choose from a whole new generation of HP Compaq Presario notebooks. These thin and light notebooks were intended to enable extended battery life and designed specifically for the mobile world. Enjoy mobility and wireless connectivity wherever and whenever. Get the mobile convenience you deserve, visit your Compaq Presario resellers today!

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- 10/100 LAN (Broadband ready)
- 14" XGA TFT display
- 1-year, Worlwide Limited Warranty

PhP69,950

Compaq Presario 2515AP Notebook

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- 30GB HDD
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- Integrated 1.44MB Floppy drive
- 56kbps Data/Fax modem
- 10/100 LAN (Broadband ready)
- 15" XGA TFT display
- 1-year, Worlwide Limited Warranty

PhP59,950

Compaq Presario V1003 Notebook

- Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 1.4GHz
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless LAN 2100 (802.11b)
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- 15" color XGA TFT display
- 40GB HDD
- 256MB DDR memory
- DVD CD Writer Combo MultiBay Drive (Hot Swappable)
- Integrated Secure Digital (SD) slot
- 56kbps V.90 Data/Fax modem
- Integrated Intel® Extreme Graphics 2
- 10/100 LAN (Broadband ready)
- JBL Pro Speakers and 16-bit Stereo Sound
- 1-year, Worlwide Limited Warranty

PhP89,950

Compaq Presario V1022 Notebook

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  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless LAN 2100 (802.11b)
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- 15" color XGA TFT display
- 40GB HDD
- 256MB DDR memory
- DVD Writer (DVD+RW) MultiBay Drive (Hot Swappable)
- Integrated Secure Digital (SD) slot
- 56kbps Data/Fax modem
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*Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly PC Tracker, 4Q 2003

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

THE NEW BACOLOD (SILAY) AIRPORT
ANOTHER TAKE OFF
TOWARDS A STRONG REPUBLIC

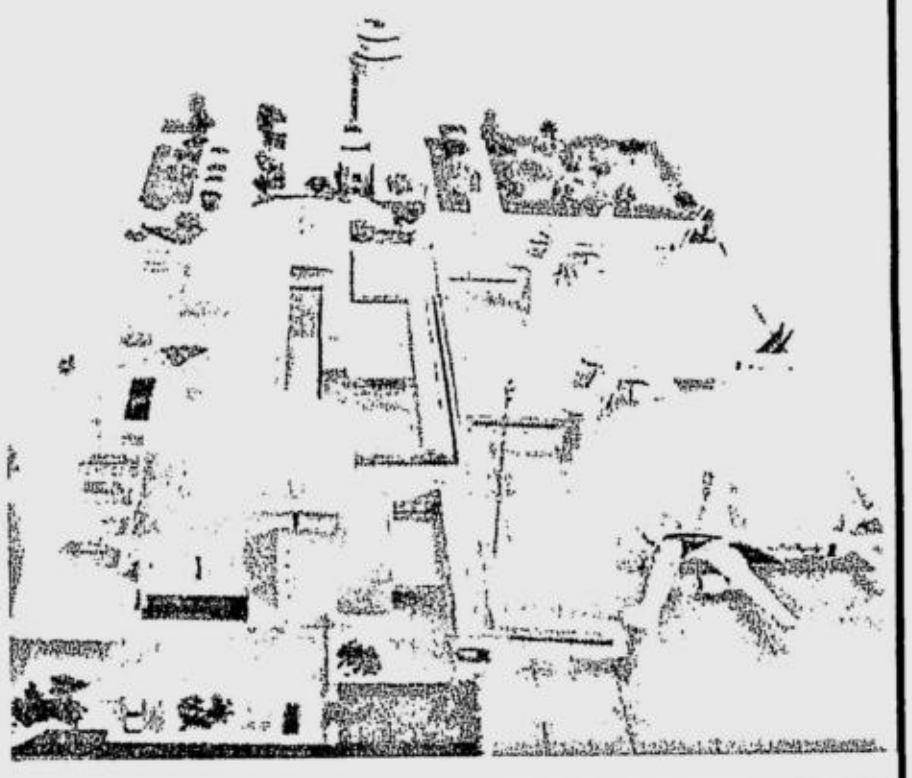
" Once completed, the New Bacolod (Silay) Airport will serve as the gateway to progress and development in Western Visayas and the nation and put civil aviation in this part of Asia at par with that of highly developed nations in the world. "

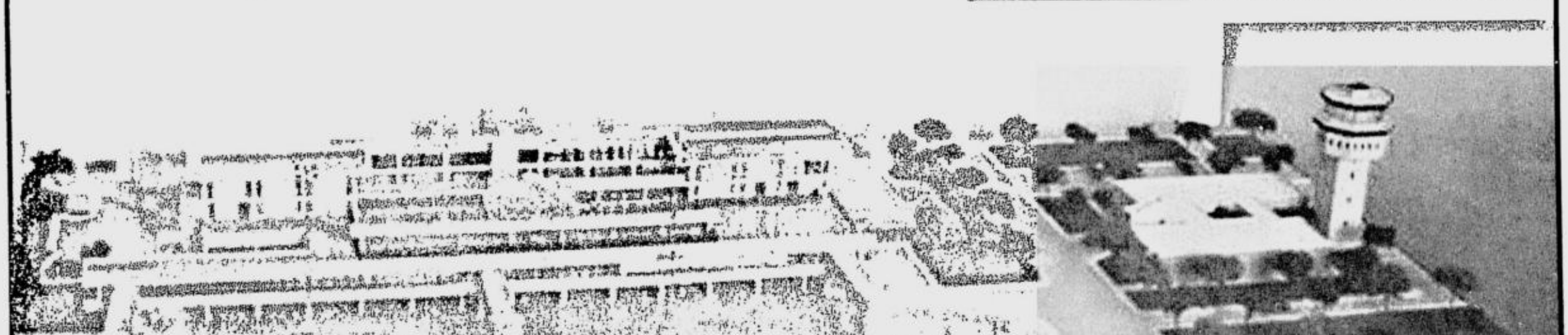
-- President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

THE GATEWAY TO PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN VISAYAS AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. A JOINT PROJECT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN THROUGH THE JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS MAY 2004.
COMPLETION EXPECTED IN SEPTEMBER 2006.

PROJECT COST: PhP 5.054 B





DOTC Secretary LEANDRO MENDOZA (left) and NORIO NAKADA and Seiichi Kimoto of Takenaka-Itochu Joint Venture, the Japanese firm that won the bid to construct the airport, sign the contract spelling more progress and development for Western Visayas. Other DOTC officials who witnessed the contract signing are Asst. Secretary Robert Casatañares, Undersecretary Edward Harun Pagunsan and Project Director Roberto Jaime Salazar.

"The New Bacolod (Silay) Airport will boost business and tourism in the Visayas and will be one of the greatest showcases of the strong Republic envisioned by President Arroyo. "

- DOTC Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

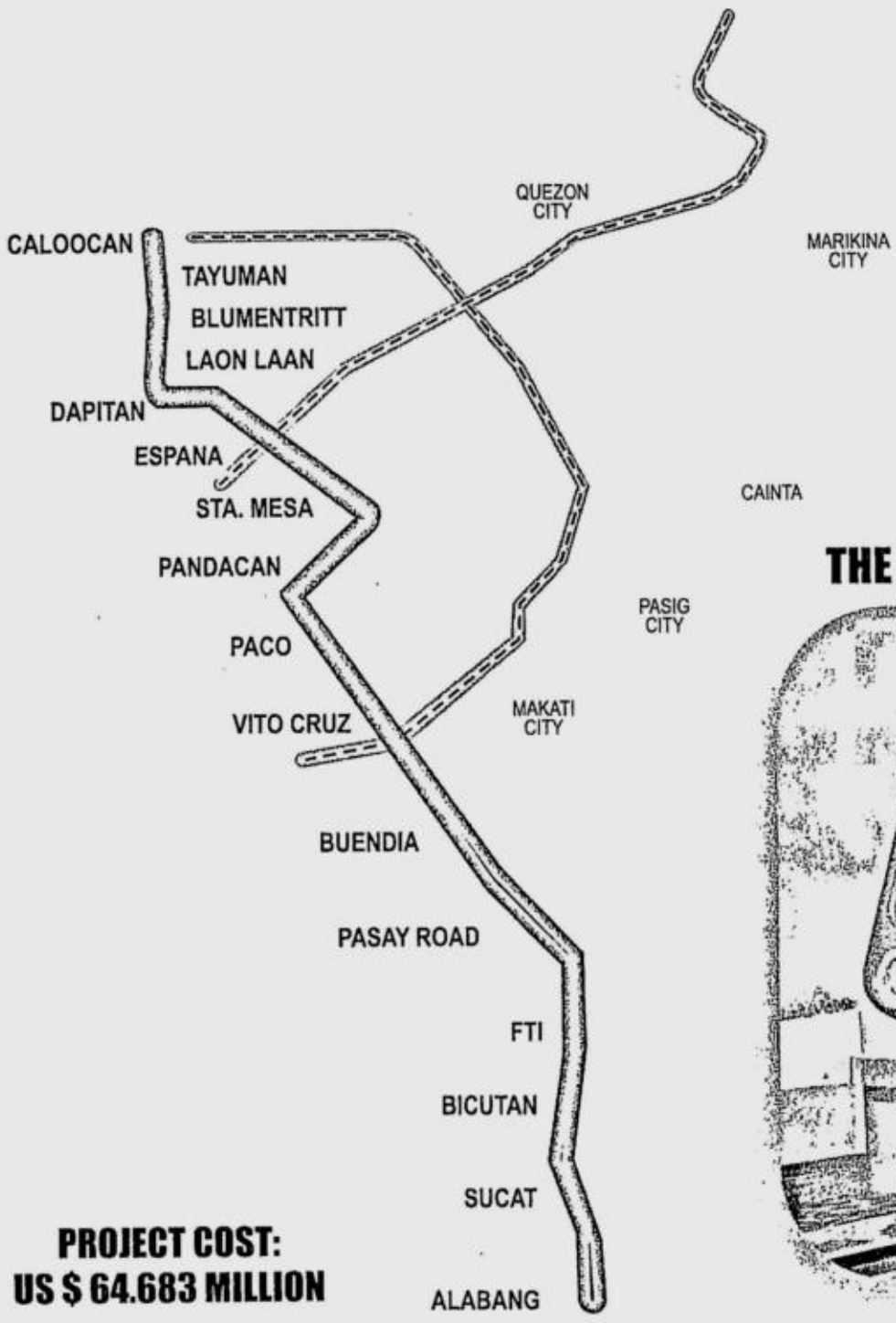
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS

THE SOUTH MANILA COMMUTER RAIL PROJECT PHASE 1

PUTTING THE METROPOLIS ON THE RIGHT TRACK TOWARDS A STRONG REPUBLIC

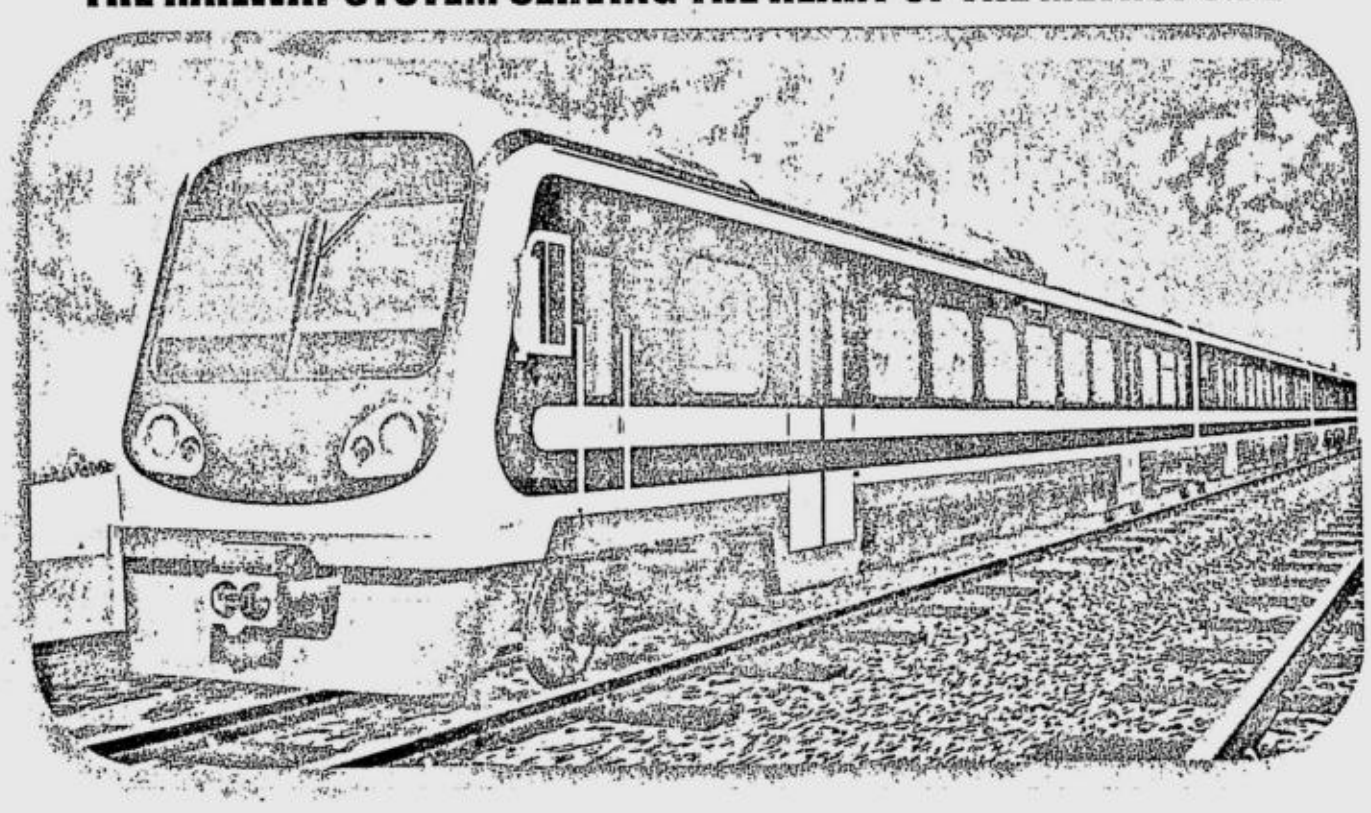
"It is the duty of the government to improve the lives of the people. Establishing a safe, efficient, integrated, affordable and comfortable railway system in Metropolitan Manila will prove that our strong Republic cares for its people..

-- Her Excellency PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO



PROJECT COST:
US $ 64.683 MILLION

THE RAILWAY SYSTEM SERVING THE HEART OF THE METROPOLIS



A JOINT PROJECT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FUND
OF KOREA AND THE KOREA EXPORT-IMPORT BANK.

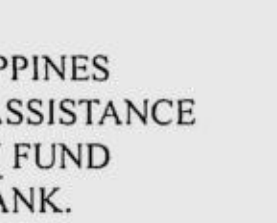
ANOTHER MILESTONE ON THE ROAD
TO A STRONG REPUBLIC WITH
H.E. PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO.

PROJECT FEATURES

- Railway Coverage: Caloocan City to Alabang, Metro Manila
- Railway Length: 32 kilometers
- Average Travel Time (end to end): 30-35 minutes
- Daily Passenger Volume: 187,000 passengers
- Number of Stations in the Line: 16 (all upgraded)
- Interconnected to Northrail, LRT Lines 1 and 2 and MRT 3
- Improved safety and maintenance
- 21 brand new diesel-powered railcars

" The South Manila Commuter Rail Project will be a lasting testimony to the success of the strong Republic envisioned by President Arroyo"

- DOTC Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza



PROJECT SCOPE

- Track renewal, Caloocan to Tayuman and Tayuman to España sections
- Strengthening of tracks, España to Alabang
- Double Tracking, Sucat to Alabang
- Level crossings improvement
- Raising of Pandacan bridge
- Reconstruction of Alabang bridges
- Improvement of stations and flagstops
- Fencing of station premises
- Improvement of depot and maintenance facilities
- Installation of signaling and communications facilities

SRTransit
STRONG REPUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

San Miguel to set up beverage facility in Vietnam

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL Corp. on Wednesday signed an agreement with property firm Amata (Vietnam) Co. Ltd. to allow the food and beverage giant to put up a beverage facility in Vietnam.

The agreement is in line with SMC's bid to expand in the Asia-Pacific region.

The 40-year property lease agreement signed with Amata involves a 100,000-square meter property at Bien Hoa City in Dong Nai province, Vietnam.

The lease agreement will be effective until December 2044.

SMC earlier teamed up with Amata for a similar venture in Rayong, Thailand.

The beverage facility to be built will manufacture high quality beverages, primarily from domestic materials. Some products include fruit-based drinks, bottled water and other beverages.

A business license from the Dong Nai Industrial Zones Authority was issued last October.

SMC's investment in Vietnam will allow the company to cash in on Vietnam's expected economic growth.

In 1996, SMC set up San Miguel Brewery Vietnam, Ltd. in Nha Trang. That same year, San Miguel Phu Tho Packaging Co. started making metal closures and caps, while San Miguel Yamamura Haiphong Glass Co., began producing and marketing glass containers.

It also recently completed its purchase of TTC Vietnam Ltd., a company with hog farm and feed milling operations in Binh Duong.

SMC aims to be among Asia's top ten food and beverage firms by 2007, according to Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., SMC chair and chief operating officer.

Cojuangco said it has scheduled a number of ground breaking activities in various countries in Asia Pacific by the second half next year which would firm up its foothold in those locations.

SMC has already identified seven countries as part of its regional expansion in Asia-Pacific, initially earmarking $100 million for each expansion. These are Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan and Australia.

SMC recently signed an agreement to acquire assets of Thai beer maker Thai Amarit Brewery Ltd. for $102 million, which include a brewery on a 21.75-hectare site at the Pathum Thani province in Central Thailand, some 30 kilometers north of Bangkok.

Last November, SMC also purchased a leading feeds producer in Vietnam.

It also secured a business license for its non-alcoholic business in Shunde, Guangdong Province in mainland China.

The company's total investment there will amount to $45 million while the franchise will allow the company to operate in Shunde for 50 years, or until March 2054.

SHARING OF BLESSINGS
The Consuelo "Chito" Madrigal Foundation has set aside P20.9 million for a project to help the poor in the Bicol Region. From left (seated), Susana AS Madrigal, Manuel Collantes, Consuelo "Chito" Madrigal, Gemma Malapo, Margie Floirendo, Terri Madrigal, (standing, from left) Rene Valencia, William Concepcion, Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Alberto Jugo marked the launching on May 5 with a simple ceremony held at the Madrigal residence in Makati City.

Distinctly Highlands

PLANTATION HILLS Greenlands

Conceived by Mother Earth
Tended to life by Belle Corporation

Set Your Sights Higher.

Come see us at Café Saratoga est. 2004
at the Flowerside Farm, located at The Highlands

Highlands Tagaytay City, Philippines

Tagaytay Highlands (046) 413-0824 Belle Corporation 6879271 or 0917-5261253

Owner/Developer BELLE CORPORATION

Napocor fails to secure MB loan approval

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PLAN of the National Power Corp. to borrow $100 million may no longer push through after the agency failed to secure the Monetary Board's approval as scheduled last week.

The proceeds of the planned borrowing was supposed to help meet the power firm's financing requirement for the year, which amounts to a total of $1.5 billion.

The borrowing was being arranged by UBS Warburg and was supposed to be done through a private placement, according to a source.

The source said the arrangement with UBS was supposed to be completed before the elections. But since the Monetary Board did not give its approval as scheduled, Napocor and the national government would have to consider other private-placement offers.

An official from the Department of Finance said government and Napocor officials are working out the planned borrowing for the power utility, and they are hoping to raise a substantial amount soon after the elections.

The government has already helped the cash-strapped power firm to raise a third of its $1.5-billion borrowing requirements for 2004 through the issuance of bonds.

Last month, the government sold $400 million worth of 7- and 10-year global bonds.

The amount raised from the global bond issue added to the $1 million the government raised on Napocor's behalf.

The government usually borrow on behalf of Napocor—this time, with the sale of zero coupon bonds—which has the biggest liability among government-owned and -controlled corporations.

The credit-risky Napocor expects to post a net loss of P113 billion this year.

Communication ...

From page B4

place; 3) to fast-track land reform with the necessary support services, and enforce women property rights protection so that the farmer is better rather than worse off; and, 4) to prosecute and jail smugglers, as well as stop the importation of products that pose bio-security risks.

Things to come

On the recommendation of allocating the coco levy funds for the benefit of small coconut farmers, all candidates except one said they would follow the Supreme Court decision supporting this position, but would likewise respect the judicial process of settling first the motion for reconsideration raised on this issue. Poe's position was that this needed further study.

The agenda item which generated the most controversy was the proposed full restoration of DAO 17. This pertains to the order delimiting municipal waters 15 km from the shoreline to prioritize small fisherfolk over commercial fishing. All candidates favored the inventory of these waters.

However, President Macapagal, Lacson and Poe expressed reservations on the immediate delimitation of the waters. This is because it might mean the banning of commercial fishing in the municipal waters of faraway islands where hardly any small fisherfolk are affected.

The Alyansa leaders are pleased that all the presidential candidates agreed in principle with their proposed agenda.

Instead of the farmers and fisherfolk responding to the politicians' programs, the Alyansa leaders succeeded in persuading politicians to consider the agricultural agenda they had formulated for over a year. If this role reversal serves as a preview of things to come, then the new paradigm of empowered farmers and fisherfolk, would be the biggest success of all.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

GM finally scores marketing coup with Optra

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

FEATURE

PENETRATING the Philippine vehicle market was not at all easy for American automobile giant General Motors Corp.

Its timing was off, having entered the local market in 1996 when all the major players, mostly Japanese, were already well-entrenched in the market.

The buyers, particularly the younger generation, were cool to its products since GM Philippines did not have a track record that they could remember and count on.

Many were worried over after-sales service and replacement parts since the company was not doing the assembly here, so they tended to go for the more familiar brands.

The sales figures in the last six years reflected the unenthusiastic response of the market to GM.

Its sales in those years had been improving but not substantial enough to make its presence felt.

The highest it could muster during that period was a share of about 2 percent in the overall vehicle market.

That is why GMPh drove extra miles to prove itself and dispel fears of the buyers. And the American automobile giant seems to be succeeding at making a dent in the Japanese-dominated Philippine vehicle market.

Best bet

In August last year, GMPh launched its most promising bet in the passenger car market, the Optra, together with two other Chevrolet cars—Aveo and Zafira.

Although the 1.5-liter Aveo has its own distinct character, it has yet to make waves in the market that is not ready yet for hatchbacks.

Of the three, the Optra is considered GM's key to cracking the Japanese-dominated mainstream compact car segment of the market.

"We have the Opel but we thought it was quite expensive to appeal to the market we were targeting," GMPh sales and marketing director Nicky Mariano said.

With the Optra, GMPh is confident it has the best product to offer.

"The challenge is how to convince the market that the Optra is special," he added.

To address the market's cynicism and fears, Mariano said GM made sure the Optra would have the best features a compact sedan could have, the quality backed by the track record of the big names that helped built it, the price that could be considered the most competitive in the local market and the guarantee that ensured not only free services but also free replacement parts that went with the regular tune-ups of the vehicle for two years.

It took GM 18 months to conceptualize, design and build the Chevrolet Optra.

Propelled by an E-TEC II 1.6-liter DOHC engine, the Optra's sleek, bold lines and subtle curves were designed by Pininfarina of Italy, a longtime Ferrari designer.

The Optra boasts of a spacious cabin and European-style interiors, a Blaupunkt audio system with a 5-disc in-dash CD changer, six speakers and steering wheel-mounted controls.

Assurance

While everybody else was offering a warranty on labor for three years, GMPh went a step ahead and introduced its Free Periodic Maintenance program that offered buyers not only free service but also free parts that go with the car's regular check-ups for two years. This is in addition to its 100,000-km warranty.

THE CHEVROLET Optra (manual) sells for P645,000

"With this program, all you need is gas up , maybe change tires, and we take care of the rest," Mariano said.

At present, it is only GMPh that offers the market this kind of after-sales service guarantee.

The GM people in the country are confident they have the network to serve the vehicle and after-sales service requirements of the market.

GMPh has seven GM Autoworld dealers nationwide.

For after-sales services, Mariano said GM's dealers had enough capacity to accommodate the demand.

He said GMPh dealers, initially in the Makati area, were establishing express lanes to service regular tune-up requirements. The target, he said, was to complete the tune-up in an hour.

GMPh also launched the GM Roadside Assistance Program providing any warranty-covered situations, including road emergencies such as towing, battery jump-starts, tire replacement and vehicle lockouts free of charge.

Competitive

Chevrolet Optra was priced at levels that the market would not fail to notice. "Its price will make buyers notice it and take a closer look at the car," he said.

In its class, Mariano said the Chevrolet Optra is the most competitive in terms of pricing. The manual transmission sells for P645,000 while the automatic is P685,000. Its nearest competitor sells for P695,000 for manual and P735,000 for automatic.

"In selling the Optra, we capitalize on the fact that we have the best and most competitively priced car in its class, and that our guaranteed after-sales service is the only one of its kind in the country today," Mariano said.

Making headway

Now on its ninth month in the market, the Optra has succeeded in making a headway in its target market. It finally put GMPh on the list of the top three players in the 1.6-liter category.

The Chevrolet Optra consistently ranked No. 3 in this class after Toyota's Corolla Altis and Honda Motor's Civic. It came ahead of Mitsubishi Lancer, 1.6-liter Ford Lynx and the 1.6-liter Nissan Sentra.

Its 17-percent share in the 1.6-liter category boosted GMPh's share in the passenger car market to more than 6 percent, from only 1.4 percent.

GMPh knew it had to make a difference to be noticed here, and it finally did so with the Optra.

Leading US refining company enters RP lubricants market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONOCOPHILLIPS, the United States' largest oil refiner and the world's fifth-largest lubricants maker, has tapped DMX Technology Corp. to penetrate the local lubricants market.

DMX chief executive Petteri Makitalo said in a statement that the partnership meant more choices of lubrication and hydraulic oils, whether synthetic or mineral for the consumers.

"We are proud to be the strategic Philippine partner of an internationally renowned energy firm," Makitalo said. "ConocoPhillips uses state-of-the-art technology and produced a full range of synthetic and synthetic-performance oil that are better than all solvent refined products in the market today."

Headquartered in Houston, Texas, ConocoPhillips operates in 40 countries with four core activities worldwide.

These are petroleum exploration and production; petroleum refining, marketing, supply and transportation; natural gas gathering, processing and marketing; chemicals and plastics production and distribution.

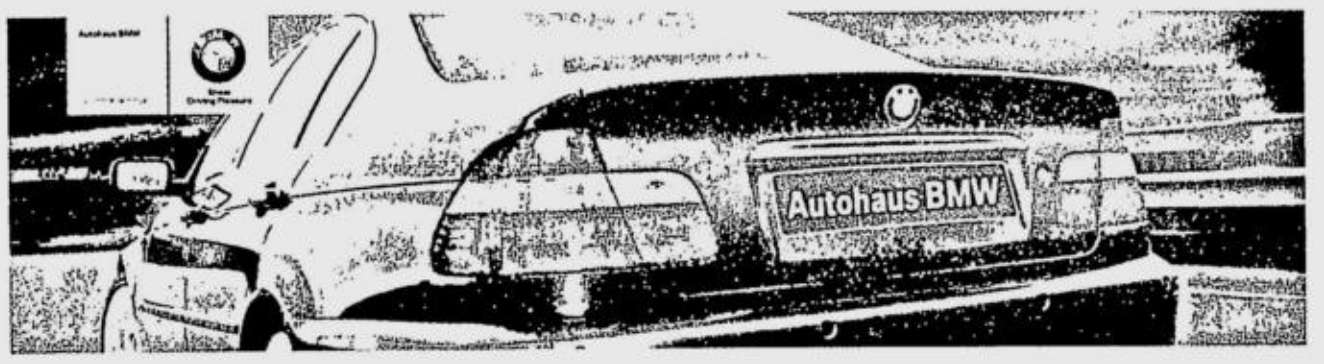
DMX Technology, on the other hand, is a local firm formed in May 2002 to engage in the distribution of high-tech lubricants under the brand names XP Lube, XP3 and D-MX.

According to its webpage, DMX Technology is entering the market in stages, using as leverage its access to the latest in technology.

The website added that the first stage business of the company calls for the sale of a line of petroleum-based products that are more environmentally responsible than current ones.

The DMX official said the US petroleum firm's expertise in the production of high-tech lubricant products translated into higher efficiency, maximum use and reuse and below-industry standards on exhaust emissions.

HER EXCELLENCY Nesreen Mustafa Siddeek Berwari, Minister of Municipalities and Public Works of Iraq, discusses business opportunities for rebuilding Iraq with former President Fidel V. Ramos and Amina Rasul during a lunch with business groups and government officials hosted by Delfin Lazaro, chairman of Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates, Inc.



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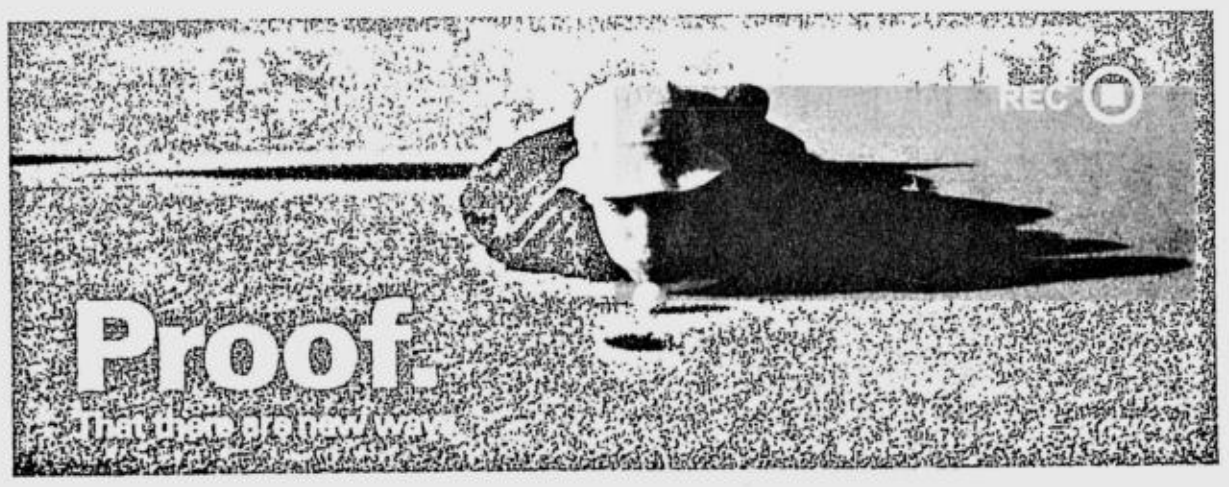
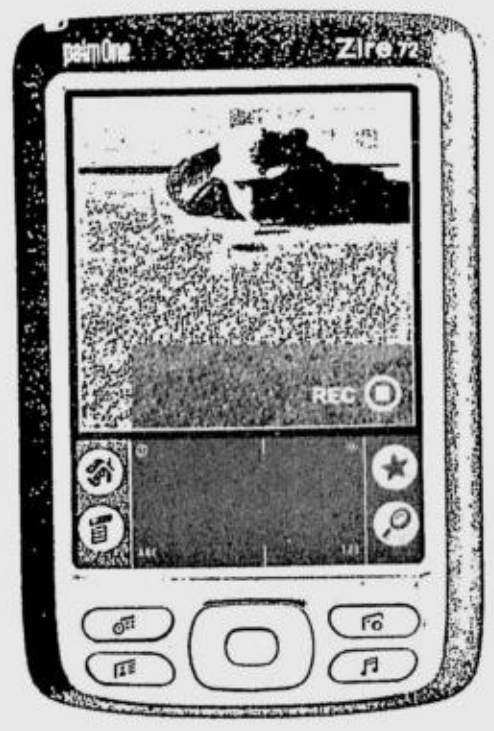
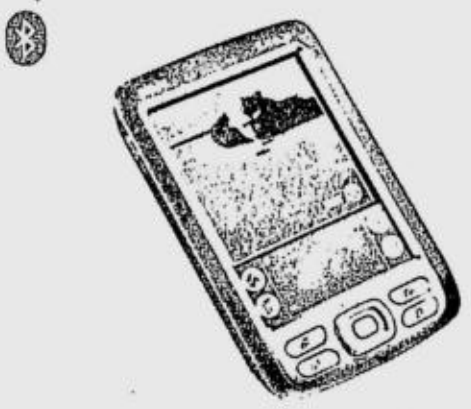




Zire



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The new Zire™ 72 handheld from palmOne gives you new ways to enjoy multimedia capabilities. With its built-in 1.2 megapixel camera, you can now capture video1 and shoot photos on the go. Share SMS, MMS and email messages via Bluetooth™2. Create and edit Word and Excel compatible documents. It's everything you need for work and play.

For capturing life's spontaneous moments, the Zire™ 72 handheld from palmOne is living proof - that you now have new and better ways to play.

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A colourful life can be yours. The new Zire™ 31 handheld from palmOne features a bright colour display, photo viewer software and a built-in MP3 player. Letting you enjoy the good life wherever you are, and still be as organised as you want to be.

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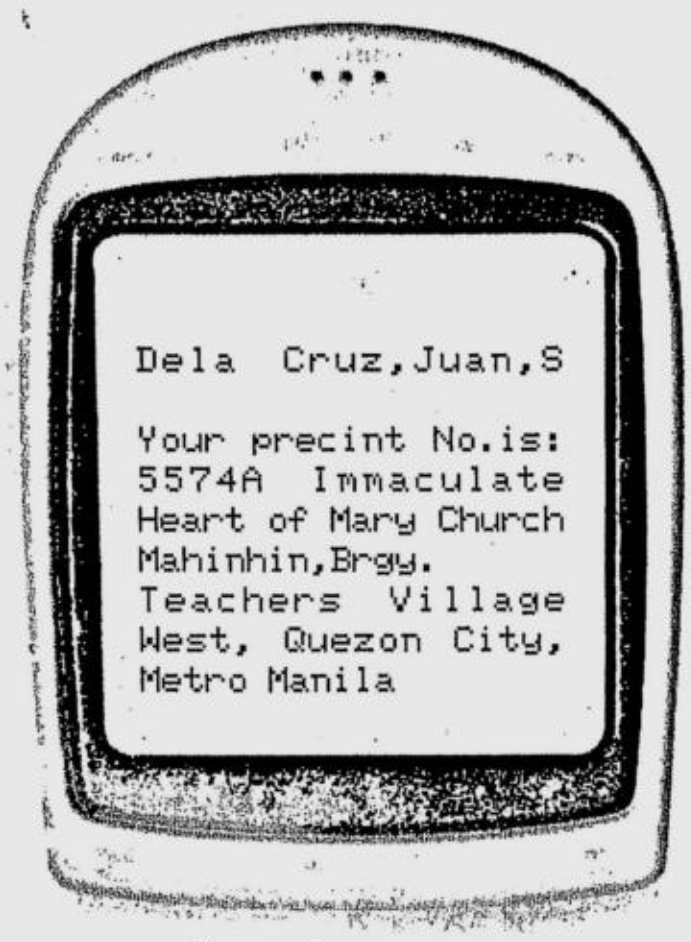

Itong impormasyon ang makukuha ninyo.

Madali na ninyong makukuha sa text at internet kung saang eksaktong presinto kayo boboto sa May 10,2004. Bawas hassle sa paghahanap. Bawas kalituhan. Ito'y serbisyong mamamayan ng Comelec para sa mas maayos na halalan.

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Commission on Elections
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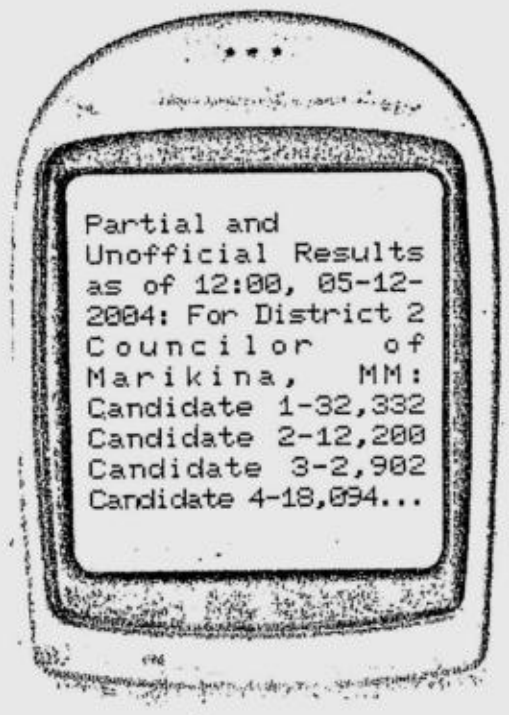

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POSISYON	LOKASYON	HALIMBAWA
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CONGRESSMAN	CITY/TOWN, PROVINCE, DISTRICT	RESULT CONGRESS QC,MM, 1
MAYOR	CITY/TOWN, PROVINCE	RESULT MAYOR LUCENA, QUEZON
PROVINCIAL BOARD REP	PROVINCE	RESULT PROVBOARD BULACAN
GOVERNOR	PROVINCE	RESULT GOVERNOR BULACAN
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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Baggao
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

April 27, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Baggao through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) hereby invites interested bidders/suppliers to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Supply and Delivery of this project.

Construction/Rehabilitation of Farm to Market Road Catugay, Baggao, Cagayan — **ABC P5,334,434.75**

Physical Description

Work Items/Scope of Work	Quantities (m/ m2 / m3)	Particulars (Standard Dimensions, Details)
Item 100-Clearing and Grubbing	16,141.92 sq.m.	Average of 3.0-4.8 meters from Sta. 0+000 to 1+160 and 8.0 meters on Sta. 1+160-2+476
Item 105-Sub-Grade Preparation	8,956.64 sq.m.	Average of 7.2 meters on Sta. 0+500 to 1+160 and 8.0 meters on Sta. 1+160-2+476
Item 104-Embankment	7,501.15 cu.m.	Average of 3.0-1.70 meters on the 2.476 km of roadway
Item 200-Aggregate Sub-Base Course	2,300.67 cu.m.	Applied on the whole length of the road.
Item 201-Aggregate Base Course	1,708.58 cu.m.	Applied on the whole length of the road.
Item 500-Pipe Culverts	43.01 l.m.	1 unit, 2 lines-450 mm dia. And 6 units 1 line-600 mm. dia. At Sta. 1+160, 1+276, 1+471, 1+683, 1+922, 2+031 and 2+220.
Item 001-R.C. Box Culvert	163.47 cu.m.	2 Units 2 barrel to replace the existing wooden/concrete bridge at Sta. 0+025 and 0+645 and an improvement of 1-barrel at Sta. 0+340.
Item 102-Roadway Excavation	42.20 cu.m.	These shall be done at Sta. 0+340 to 0+480
Item 103-Structure Excavation	175.97 cu.m.	These shall be on the location of the pipe culverts.

Eligibility Screening is set on May 29, 2004, 9:00 a.m. and submission/Opening of Bids will be on June 21, 2004 (10:00 AM) at Municipal Hall, San Jose, Baggao, Cagayan. Interested bidders can secure Eligibility Statement Forms, Instruction to Bidders & Bid Documents from the BAC Secretariat upon submission of the letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to Php5,000.00 until June 21, 2004.

Pre-bid conference will be on June 9, 2004 (10:00 AM) at Municipal Hall, San Jose, Baggao, Cagayan.

LGU-Baggao reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waived any required formality therein, and to make and award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. The provision of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JENISON C. HERRERA**
Municipal Engineer/BAC Chairman

(PDI–April 30 & May 7, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY PREQUALIFICATION & TO BID

The Provincial Government of La Union, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), San Fernando City, La Union, invites suppliers, manufacturers and/or distributors classified accordingly and registered with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or SEC, to apply for pre-qualification and if qualified to bid for:

QUANTITY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	ABC
1	unit	**BRAND NEW TRACTOR** SAME 1000.3, 3 Cylinder naturally aspirated Diesel engine, 3000 cc displacement, 60 Hp @2,350 RFM, PTO; 540/1000 RPM, 8 Forward plus 8 Reverse Speeds with Synchronized Inverter Maximum Lifting Capacity-2900 kg. Complete with Rear Swing Drawbar, Safety Frame, Front and Rear Weights	P4,200,000.00
1	unit	**BRAND NEW ROTAVATOR** Made in Malaysia, 5 cm working width, 550 kg. Weight, can be mounted to 45-60 hp tractor, single speed gearbox, chain drive with 48 blades.	
1	unit	**BRAND NEW BACKHOE** Made in Italy. Tractor Power 40-60 Hp, 320 kg. weight. Frame Weight 1100 mm, Tearing Power to the tooth 2000 kgs. PTO Driven	
1	unit	**BRAND NEW FRONT LOADER** Mechanical self-levelling device including Bucket 1800 mm fitting bracket Hydraulic system according to the tractor's features two hydraulic double acting jacks new loader quick release wear-proof brushing impl. Release-quick connectors bucket level gauge-adjustable supporting fee control valve with control stick (joystick) and remote control complete with earth bucket 1800 mm	

Pre-Qualification of Bidders and Submission of Eligibility Requirements – April 29, 2004
Issuance of Bid Documents – May 7, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference – May 11, 2004, 9:00 a.m. Diego Silang Hall
Submission and Opening of Bids – May 24, 2004, 9:15 a.m. Diego Silang Hall

All particulars relative to bonds, pre-bid conference, evaluation of bids, post qualifications, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations.

The Provincial Government of La Union reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein, and to award the suppliers, manufacturers and/or distributors whose proposal as evaluated by the Provincial BAC of La Union the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **DR. GEOFFREY S. TILAN**
Provincial Administrator/
BAC Chairman

(PDI–April 29 & May 7, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

PUBLIC ADVISORY

As previously announced by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), there are two thousand six hundred (2,600) ballots discovered to be missing from the National Printing Office (NPO), EDSA, Quezon City. These ballots are for use for the May 10, 2004 National and Local Elections and were allocated for the following cities more particularly described hereunder, *viz:*

Place	Serial Number	Quantity
1st District, Pasay City	0142001-0142100	100 ballots (1 pad)
2nd District, Pasay City	0120101-0120200	100 ballots (1 pad)
Marawi City	0016101-0016200	100 ballots (1 pad)
2nd District, Makati City	0036001-0037000 0026101-0026200 0026101-0026300 0106101-0106200	1,300 ballots (13 pads)
1st District, Pasig City	00003001-0004000	1,000 ballots (10 pads)

The COMELEC immediately took the necessary action and proper safeguards to implement stricter measures to obviate occurrence of similar incident.

The ballots afore-described and hereby considered **INVALID.**

In view of the foregoing, the Election Officers, Municipal/City Treasurers, the members of the Board of the Elections Inspectors (BEI) concerned and other interested parties are heretofore **ADVISED** and **DIRECTED** to immediately report to the COMELEC the receipt and/or discovery of the said ballots and confiscate the same. The Municipal/City Treasurers are also DIRECTED NOT to ISSUE the afore-described ballots to the BEIs and to take custody of the name for submission to the **COMELEC.** Finally, in the event these ballots are inadvertently issued, the BEIs are DIRECTED NOT to USE any of the ballots.

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

(PDI – May 7, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology (BAC-IT)
Quezon City

April 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	:	MOBILE SUBSCRIPTION FOR REVENUE OFFICERS FOR THE TAX COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION DRIVE PROJECT (Mobile RO) *- Re-bid*
Location of the Project	:	Bureau of Internal Revenue
Contract Duration	:	June 15 to December 31, 2004
Approved Budget	:	P8,286,250.00
Source of Funding	:	e-Government Fund

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from the BAC-IT Secretariat, c/o Room 605, 6/F, BIR-National Office Bldg., BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City starting April 29, 2004, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,700.00.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **May 14, 2004, Friday** at **9:00 a.m.** at the **Executive Conference Room, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City.**

Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **May 26, 2004, Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.**, to be held at the **Executive Conference Room, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City** to be followed by the opening of the bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPQS at Room 302, 3/F, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4101 (telefax), 981-7079 and 981-7080 or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS**
Assistant Commissioner - HRDS
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI - April 30 & May 7, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

03 May 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bidding and Awards Committee of the Department of Agrarian Reform is inviting all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for its security and janitorial services.

Instruction to Bidders can be secured starting **May 12, 2004,** from the Office of the Chief, General Services Division, located at the basement, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of the non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Interested bidders must submit the required documents and statements for eligibility not later than 9:00 o'clock in the morning of **May 31, 2004** at the HRD Training Center, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Terms, conditions and specifications will be discussed during the pre-bidding conference on **May 17, 2004** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at H.R.D. Training Center.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid.

DAR also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TEDDIE ELSON E. RIVERA**
Undersecretary
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 7 & 13, 2004)

OBITUARIES

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
- John 11:25-26

CONCEPCION "Connie" MONTENEGRO DELGADO

Former Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines
September 21, 1921 - May 4, 2004

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace of our Lord at the age of 83.

Her bereaved relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. Please include prayers for her sister **Charito Delgado Bendik** who passed away on April 22, 2004 in Elyria, Ohio, USA

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Family Chapel, Our Lady of Mt.Carmel Shrine Parish, Broadway Ave. cor. 5th St., New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 8, 2004 at the Bulacan Catholic Cemetery, Bulacan, Bulacan after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish.

Eng'r. ZOSIMO A. SOBREMISANA

"A Dear Husband & Loving Father"

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 30, 2004 at the age of 65.

His loving wife **Susan**; children & children-in-law **Allan & Susana, Glenn & Susan, Aileen & Raymond, Arnold & Jenet, Ma Judy & Imelda**; grandchildren **Aura Lee, Sean, Tin-Tin, Jah-Jah, Zairon & Reina**; and relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Ascension of Our Lord Parish Church Mortuary, Lagro, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 8, 2004 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at A.P.C.

NERESA MORALES vda. de EGAY

of Surigao City and Marikina City

Peacefully joined our Creator on 2 May 2004 at the age of 88.

Her bereaved children **Norma** and **Popong, Aida** and **Boy, Lydia, Nympha** (†) and **Eddie,** and **Bebot** and **Kit;** grandchildren **Maricel** and **Monch, Nikko** and **Boboy, Jop** and **Teena, Troy** and **Judy, Lisa, Rico** and **Gwen, Raya** and **Danny, Yumi** and **Jeph, Benjoy** and **Danny, Junjun, Jingjing** and **Ronald, Jojo, Joanna** and **Paul, Richard** and **Bing, Michael** and **Daisy,** and **Rinah** with all her great grandchildren and relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at
41 Oak St., New Marikina Subd., Marikina City.

Interment will be on 08 May, Saturday at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 11:30 a.m. Mass at the Our Lady of the Abandoned Church, Marikina City.

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OBITUARIES

JAMES L. CHIONGBIAN

Legislative Father of Sarangani Province
Founder-Chairman of Eastern Shipping Lines, Inc.

peacefully joined his Creator on May 5, 2004
at the age of 82.

His bereaved wife former Governor **Priscilla L. Chiongbian**; children Congressman **Erwin** & **Nancy**, **Philip**, **Lucille** & **Ruben**, and **Roy** & **Malu**; grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Necrological services will be held at the Santuario de San Antonio Mortuary Chapel on Sunday, May 9 at 8:30 A.M. Interment will immediately follow at Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City.

Please omit flowers. If you wish, you may give donations to the **James** & **Priscilla Chiongbian Foundation** for the underprivileged people of Sarangani Province.

Father Lope Castillo, MSC

Returned to the Father on Wednesday, May 5, 2004
at the age of 68.

In his long years of priestly ministry, Father Lope served the parishes of Cabadbaran, Tago, Dinagat, Lapu-Lapu City and Muñoz.

At the time of his death, he was Roman Catholic Parish Priest of the Catholic community at Central Luzon State University, and Director of San Sebastian School in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

He served his own Congregation for a double term as first Filipino Provincial Superior and as seminary formator, and the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines as one of its presidents during the difficult martial law days.

Together with his bereaved relatives, the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) requests you for your prayers and entrusts him to the Lord of whose Heart he always was a faithful missionary.

His remains lie in state at the MSC Scholasticate (10, 17th Street, New Manila, Quezon City) on May 5 and May 7, and at the Catholic Chapel, Central Luzon State University (Muñoz, N.E.) on May 6.

Interment will be on May 8, at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Caloocan City after a Eucharistic Celebration at 9:00 a.m. at the MSC Scholasticate.

"God will not close one door without opening another."
– AA Slogan

PABLO DEL ROSARIO ARANETA

August 11, 1938 – May 4, 2004

We, his wife **Christine Dee**; his mother **Luisa**; children **Digoy** and **Shu**, **Lala** and **David**, **Nana**; siblings **Tessie** and **Vicente**, **Bebeloi**, **Roberta**, **Nini** and **Bob**; his grandchildren, nephews and nieces, relatives and the AA family request readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

May his life always serve as an inspiration to all of us.

His wake will be held at the Santuario de San Antonio Chapel, Forbes Park, Makati on May 6, 2004. Pablo's ashes will be laid to rest on the 10th of May 2004.

JOSE MONTSERRAT MACEDA

National Artist

Died in the Grace of our Lord and peacefully joined his wife ***Madelyn*** *on May 5, 2004 at the age of 87.*

His loving children **Marion** and **Johnny Villanueva**, **Madeleine** and **Kyle Heide**, **Kathleen** and **Tim Maciel**, **Eileen** and **Rene Mapili**; his grandchildren **Denise**, **Kester**, **Louise**, **Andrea**, **Charles**, **Sarah** and **Rayla**; and all his relatives will fondly remember and miss him and request the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at the Abelardo Hall Auditorium, UP College of Music, Diliman, Quezon City.

Further announcements will be made.

ANDRES R. GOROSPE JR.

Died on May 2, 2004

His bereaved wife Ruth Maristela Gorospe O.
Children : Marvin, Melvin, Marlon, Marlon, Martin, Melisa, Monaliza, Richard
Brothers : Teddy, Orlie, Kim, Goulee, Gemble
Sisters : Dennie, Tattie, Mila, Lita, Lulu
Daughters-in-law : Ruby, Jo, Cristy, Maal
Grandchildren : Kit, Marby, JenJen, Louis, Luc

relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at San Nicolas de Tolentino Mortuary.

Interment, May 8, 2004, Eternal Garden. Mass will be at 10.00 a.m.

More Obituaries on page B13

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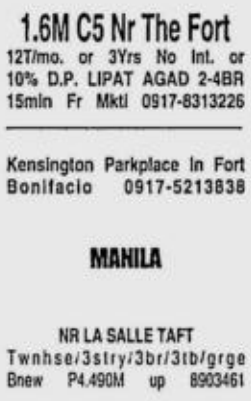

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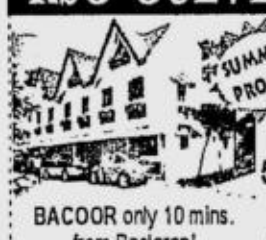

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(PDI-MAY 7, 2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ISAGANI O. SANTIAGO has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. 225; Page 51; Book 43; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. William S. Merginio of Quezon City.
Apr. 30, May 7, & 14 2004)

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TRAINER IN COMMUNITY-DRIVEN MONITORING AND IEC
KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan - Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payment of professional services under this Contract.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development which is the lead implementing agency for the flagship project of the government in fighting poverty now invites qualified firms to submit Expressions of Interest and qualifications statement with supporting documents for the position of Trainer in Community-driven Monitoring and IEC for the KALAHI-CIDSS Project.

The Consultant to be hired is expected to:

1. Develop a training of trainers (TOT) modules and session guides in:
   a. Community-driven monitoring
   b. Locally-driven IEC and Advocacy
   c. Fund-raising and resource accessing
2. Conduct and manage two (2) batches of a four-day TOT of community volunteers, regional project management office staff, and representatives from local government units on the modules developed (actual conduct includes resource persons, presentation material and handouts, training material, learning activities and documentation)
3. Administer two batches of a four-day TOT (administration includes transport, board and lodging arrangements for participants, and training venue and equipment)
4. Produce a comprehensive workplan and terminal report.

The Consultant shall report directly to the National Project Director and should meet the following qualifications and documentation requirements:

1. With existing modules in community monitoring, advocacy and resource accessing;
2. At least three (3) years existence as a firm providing training relevant to the assignment;
3. With at least 4 personnel/resource persons to be assigned to the project. The firm may engage the services of resource persons/specialists for the assignment;
4. For the team leader, at least five (5) years experience in community-based monitoring advocacy, resource accessing and participatory training; and
5. Can deliver the expected outputs to the desired qualities and on time.

In addition to the Expressions of Interest, interested bidders are required to submit a qualification statement with the following documents to be attached:

1. Copies of existing and similar modules for all subject areas (one module per subject area)
   a. Community-driven monitoring
   b. Locally-driven IEC and Advocacy
   c. Fund-raising and resource accessing
2. Certificate of registration and proof of the firm's existence;
3. List of previous clients and training provided relevant to the assignment;
4. Curriculum vitae of the team leader highlighting the qualification requirements relevant to the assignment;
5. Curriculum vitae of the proposed resource persons for the assignment;
6. Audited financial statement of the firm for the last two years;
7. Draft training design for the assignment and workplan with cost estimates.

Submissions with incomplete attachments shall not be accepted. A copy of the Terms of Reference for the assignment and the qualification statement form may be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the 2nd Floor, DSWD Central Office, Batasan Hills, Quezon City or may be downloaded at the dswd.gov.ph. Further inquiries may be directed to the BAC Secretariat through telephone number (02) 951-7116.

Deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest, Qualification Statement Forms & supporting documents will be on May 14, 2004 at 5.00 p.m. at the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, DSWD Central Office, Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

(Sgd.) RHODA F. YAP
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 7, 2004)

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CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO BID
on the following

1. Lease of Trellis Area No. 2, thru public bidding, located along the ASEAN Promenade fronting Manila Bay with total area of 292.26 square meters. Minimum bid for the rental shall not be less than P190.00/sq/meter
2. Lease of the CCP Parking Areas thru public bidding.

Please send a letter of intent to bid, addressed to Mr. Ed Duque, CCP BAC Secretariat, Office of the President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Tel Nos 832-3680 or Fax No. 832-3683. Deadline for submission of letter of intent is on Tuesday, May 25, 2004, 5:00 p.m.

The CCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof without offering any reason, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government, and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the CCP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating in the undertaking, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) SID HILDAWA
Chairman CCPBAC
(PDI-May 7 & 8, 2004

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Madrigal family battles poverty in Bicol

THE CONSUELO "Chito" Madrigal Foundation (CCMF), in partnership with the Catholic Church and various NGOs, has launched a project that aims to uplift the lives of the poor in the Bicol region. Called Hiras nin Balaog ("sharing of blessings"), the project is being funded by an initial P20.9-million grant from the CCMF, which will allocate P10.5 million for affordable housing, P3.4 million for education, P3 million for microfinance and livelihood projects, as well as an additional P4million for various capacity-building initiatives.

The housing component will be implemented by Bicol Habitat for Humanity-the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity Philippines-and is initially targeting the construction of some 200 low-cost houses for poverty-stricken families in the region. The microfinance and livelihood initiatives, which will also include programs on values formation and population control by natural means, will be conducted by the social action centers of the Catholic dioceses in Bicol, starting with the provinces of Camarines Norte and Sur, Masbate and Albay. The educational component will provide scholarships to 40 deserving students from these provinces to attend the prestigious BS Business Management-Honors program at the Ateneo de Naga University.

Representatives of the Catholic Church in Bicol, Most Rev. Leonardo Z. Legaspi, OP, Habitat for Humanity Philippines and its local affiliate, and the Ateneo de Naga University will join Doña Consuelo "Chito" Madrigal in signing a Memorandum of Understanding that embodied their collective commitment to this project. The project was initiated by Doña Chito as a way of empowering the disadvantaged and marginalized people from the poorest communities in the region. This is consistent with her firm belief in not giving dole-outs but rather in providing opportunities for people to help themselves and in the process create meaningful and positive change for their families, their communities, and the region as a whole.

The Madrigal family traces its historical roots to Ligao City in Albay as it is there where the late Don Vicente Madrigal, Doña Chito's father, first emerged from very humble beginnings and was able to achieve prominence and success through hard work and the help of others. It is in this spirit, along with the fact that Bicol is the second poorest region in the country, that CCMF has selected Bicol for the launch of this project. With additional funding in the future, the foundation aims to grow the reach and benefits of the Hiras nin Balaog project beyond the Bicol region to other disadvantaged regions of the country. This is part of a broad-based social and community development effort by Doña Chito who has already endowed CCMF with an initial total. fund of P200 million as well as a donation of several parcels of land in the region. The Madrigal family hopes that initiatives being launched by CCMF will also serve to inspire others to become involved in nation building and the fight against poverty.

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Malolos flyover completed in record time

THE PRESIDENT'S Bridge Program's (PBP) Tulay ng Pangulo Project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) under the Macapagal Administration has reached another record breaking achievement in bridge building and infrastructure development-the completion of a 280-meter permanent steel flyover in Malolos City, Bulacan in 60 days.

Soon after the quick installation of the twin double lane 167-meter temporary flyover at the Dolores Junction in San Fernando, Pampanga in August 2003, PBP Chair and DPWH Secretary Florante Soriquez, acting on President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive, spearheaded the construction of a permanent rapid erect steel flyover at the main junction of McArthur Highway intersecting Mabini Street in Malolos City to answer the heavy flow of vehicles coming from Metro Manila, Bulacan and Pampanga.

The state-of-the-art steel bridging materials used are supplied by Mabey and Johnson Ltd. (M&J) of the United Kingdom, the same and lone supplier of the widely used Compact 200 bridge being built at a rate of two bridges per week throughout the Philippines.

The Mabey flyover uses cutting-edge technology in design and manufacture to produce the latest in urban permanent flyover systems. Each individual component has been computer modeled using computer aided design (CAD) system. The programmed data is electronically transferred to robots to ensure that manufacture is accurate and uniform for all components. M&J's ISO-9001 accredited factory in the United Kingdom is fully automated, thus requiring only minimal human intervention. All steel bridging components are hot-dipped galvanized to British Standard 729 and pass through stringent quality control procedures before shipment. Larger components like the main plate girders are metalized with sprayed aluminum and finished with a high-performance epoxy paint system.

The steel flyover complies with AASHTO HS25-44 loading standard-+25 percent higher than the current Philippine highway loading standard-the same highway loading used in over 700 Compact 200 Bridges already built nationwide.

Work commenced March 6 and is envisaged that the structure will be open to traffic come May 8-a remarkable feat in the development of vital infrastructure in this fast developing city north of Manila.

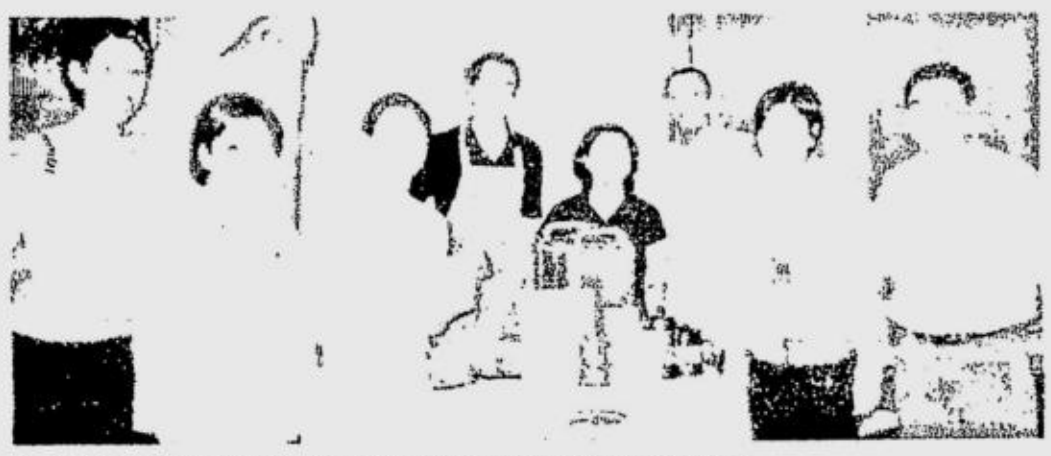
The completion of the permanent Malolos flyover will ease up the perennial heavy traffic congestion along MacArthur Highway - lessening travel time for motorists, improving commerce and trade in the province and its neighboring areas, thus significantly increasing economic growth.

This fast-tracked project is a priority concern of the President, initiated by local officials of the city of Malolos, Mayor Danilo Domingo, Provincial Governor Josefina dela Cruz and First District Rep. Wilhelmino Sy Alvarado. The successful installation of this structure is supervised by Assistant Program Director Emil Sadain of the PBP Planning Office with the technical assistance of Mabey and Johnson.

An official inauguration of the completed Malolos Flyover is scheduled on May 8.

GLOBEQUEST PROVIDES TELECOMS SOLUTIONS TO HILTON CEBU

GlobeQUEST, the corporate business group of Innove Communications, recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Hilton Cebu Resort and Towers. Under the five-year exclusive contract, GlobeQUEST will provide complete telecommunications solution such as broadband-to-the-room, wireless Internet access, and phone lines with NDD and IDD to the Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa, Residential Condominiums, and Service Apartments. Goldland Philippines Corp is the owner and developer of the project. Shown are (from left) Jesus C. Romero, GlobeQUEST head, Gil B. Genio, Innove CEO, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Ayala Corp president, Manuel H. Osmena, Goldland president, and Ralph H. Wehner, general manager, Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa.



COFFEE TREATS FOR CITIBANK CEBU CUSTOMERS

Customers of Citibank in Cebu recently had a cozy and enjoyable coffee break when Citibank Cebu transformed its CitiGold lounge to a mini-Starbucks coffee shop. The event, held in partnership with Starbucks, attracted many of the bank's customers who dropped by to enjoy their favorite hot/cold drinks while listening to tips on coffee brewing conducted by Starbucks personnel from Manila. It also became an opportunity for these clients to sit down with their CitiGold relationship managers and, over coffee, discuss their portfolio and get investment updates. Shown are Aileen Vallesteros, Citibank relationship marketing unit head (2nd from left) and Judith Go, Citibank Cebu branch manager (2nd from right) with Starbucks friends.

CADIO SINGS AT THE E'S BAR

Mondays for the whole month of May, e's Bar at Edsa Shangri-La Manila, features pop/jazz vocalist Cadio. His repertoire includes the hits of Sinatra, Bennett, the '70s and '80s and other immortal classics rendered in jazz and swing arrangements. Shown is Cadio (seated), with (from left) Jack Lagonoy (bassist), Vic Santiago (musical director/keyboardist) and Joey Valencio (drummer). Show starts at 8:30 p.m. No cover charge.

BITS Clips

SM's gift for Mom

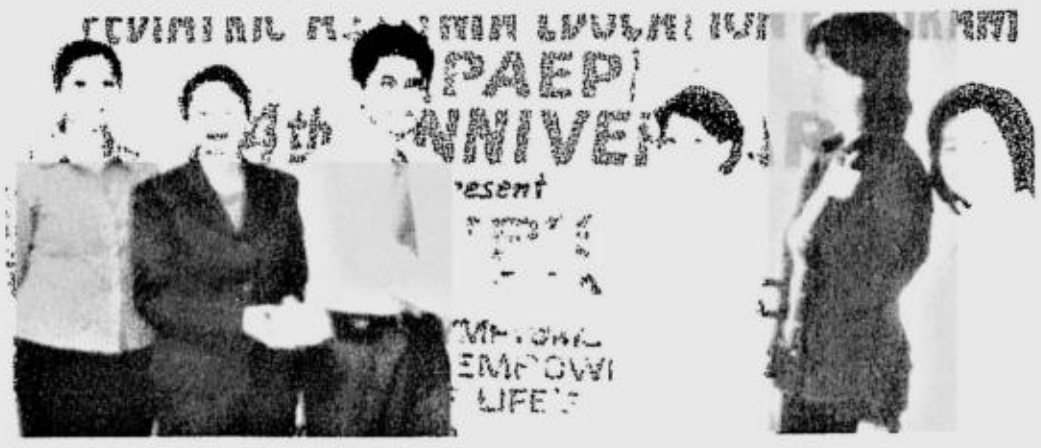
AS WE pay tribute to the most important women in our lives, SM Supermalls is giving you the chance to win a free gift for Mom, as we celebrate Mother's Day. Shop at any SM Supermalls from May 1 to 15 for a chance to win a JVC Digital Cybercam. Win this exciting JVC Digital Cyber Camera to capture precious moments with Mom. A minimum single receipt purchase of P500 (cash or charge) from participating mall establishments (food and non-food) or at the SM Department Store entitles the customer to one raffle coupon. A minimum single receipt purchase of P1,000 at the SM Appliance Center also entitles the customer to one raffle coupon. Deadline for submission of entries is on May 15 at the designated promo booth inside the mall. Draw date is on May 17. A total of 17 JVC Digital Cybercams will be raffled off.

SMA alumni homecoming

ALL GRADUATES of St. Mary's Academy, Yakal, Trozo, Manila are requested to attend the Alumni Homecoming to be held on May 22, Saturday afternoon at the St. Mary's Academy Compound. For further details, call Sr. Alice at 253-2243.

Brothers Burger's cool sensations

BROTHERS Burger is the coolest place to be this summer as it launches its ice cream offering in the market. Satisfy your summer cravings by having a taste of Brothers Sundae Choco or Sundae Ube Ice Cream. Melt into the cooling goodness of vanilla ice cream in oh-so crispy Belgian cone with choco or ube coating topped with rice crispies or peanuts. Brothers Ice Cream offering can be availed of for only P15. Get a free Brothers Burger Fan for every order of Ice Cream. Promo is good until supply lasts. This offering is just one of the many delightful treats at Brothers Burger. Brothers Burger is made from 100-percent imported pure beef, flame-broiled patties, and a host of toppings to choose from. Brothers Burger has seven branches in Metro Manila: Ortigas, Rockwell, Pasong Tamo, The Loop, Greenhills, Alabang, The Fort and one in Camp John Hay, Baguio City. Also soon to open is its newest outlet in SM City, Baguio.



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NOTICE OF CHANGE OF DIRECTORS/OFFICERS

In compliance with Rule II Section 12 of the POEA Rules and Regulations Governing Employment, let it be known that:

Effective 19th March 2004, the following were elected as new members of the Board of Directors of HFS PHILIPPINES, INC. for the term 2004-2005:

SEBJORN DAHL
PER ERIK MOE
RUBEN T. DEL ROSARIO
CHARLES JAY D. DELA CRUZ
DELFIN T. LOPEZ, JR.

Further, effective on the same date, the following are the new officers of HFS PHILIPPINES, INC. for the term 2004 - 2005:

RUBEN T. DEL ROSARIO	-	Chairman
DELFIN T. LOPEZ JR.	-	President
YOLANDA E. DEL PILAR	-	Treasurer
CHARLES JAY D. DELA CRUZ	-	Corporate Secretary
HERBERT A. TRIA	-	Asst. Corporate Secretary

Finally, JOHANNES TVEDTE has resigned from HFS PHILIPPINES, INC. as Director and Chairman of the Board effective 31 December 2003.

(Sgd.) **CHARLES JAY D. DELA CRUZ**
Corporate Secretary

ProductFILES

Engineering excellence

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Editor Aries Espinosa

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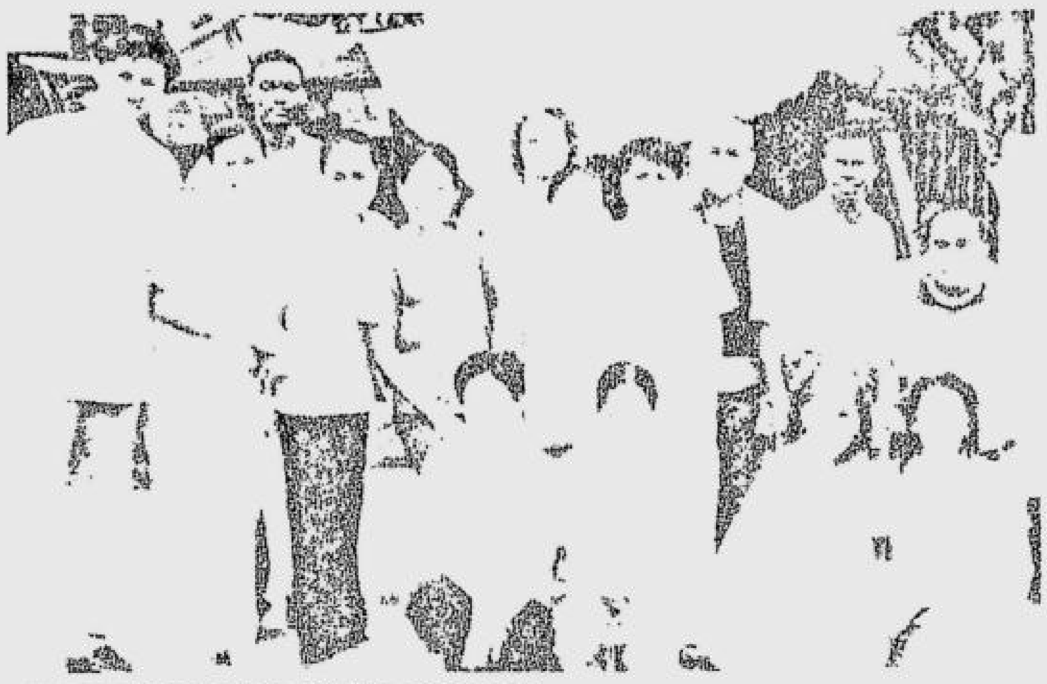

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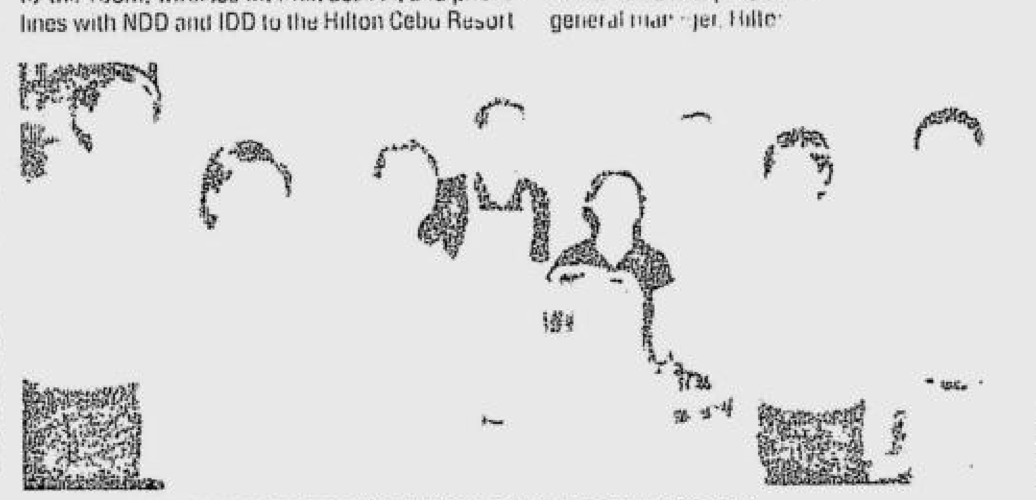

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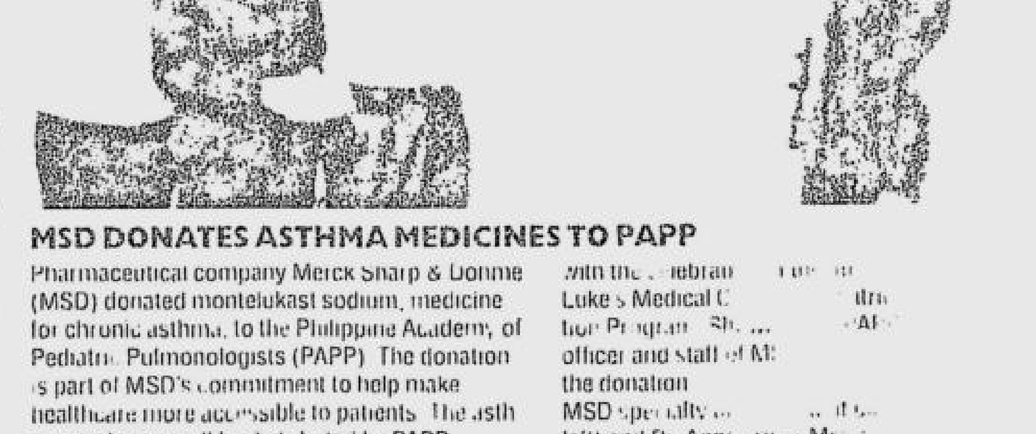

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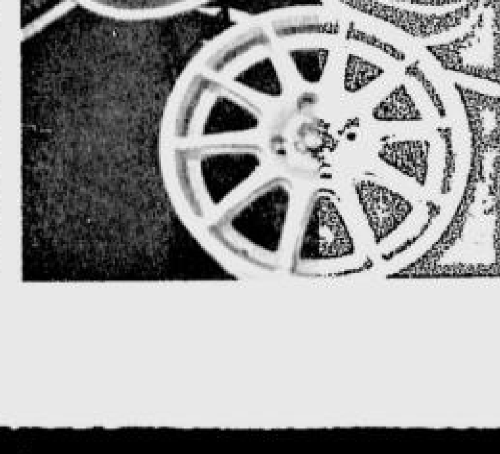

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MAY 16	PBA : PUREFOODS VS. TALK 'N' TEXT
MAY 19	PBA : FEDEX VS. STA. LUCIA
MAY 23	PBA : SAN MIGUEL VS. FEDEX
MAY 26	PBA : STA LUCIA VS. SHELL
MAY 29	THE SEARCHERS
MAY 30	PBA RED BULL VS SAN MIGUEL

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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
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ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
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QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
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CINEMA-2	ANIMAL
CINEMA-3	WHOLE 10 YARDS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DUDA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MAN ON FIRE
CINEMA-6	MAASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-7	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-8	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	CONFESSIONS OF DRAMA QUEEN
CINEMA-12	STARSKY & HUTCH
CINEMA-14	HELLBOY
CINEMA-15	I WILL SURVIVE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

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(LAS PINAS)	PAYCHECK
CINEMA-1	ANIMAL
CINEMA-2	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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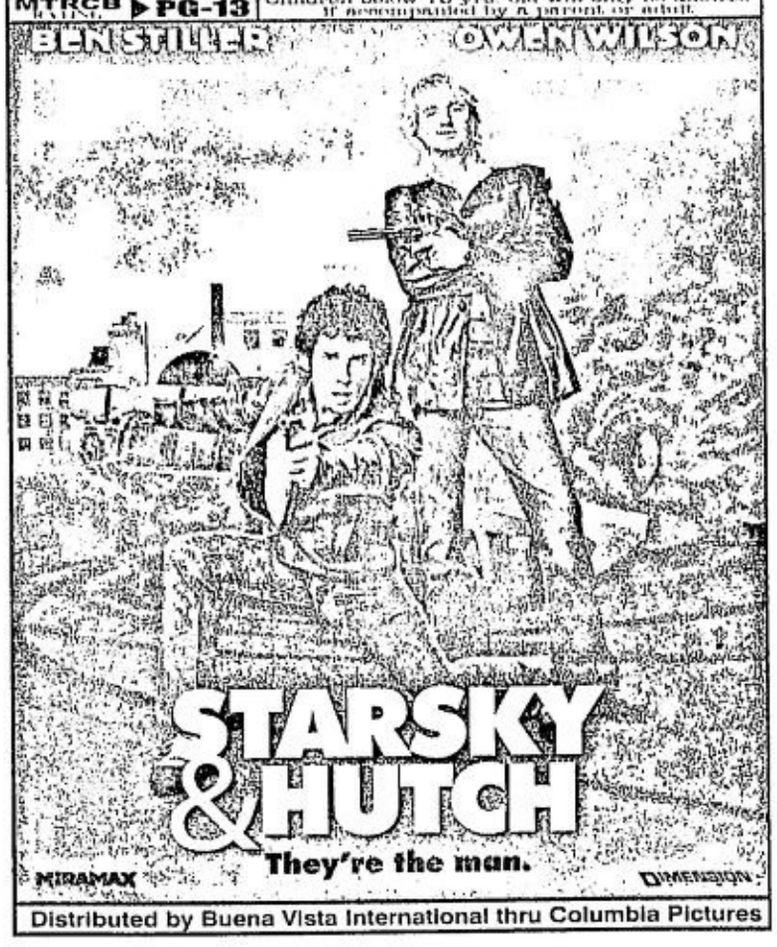

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VAN HELSING PG13 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45	MAN ON FIRE R18 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00	VAN HELSING PG13 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30

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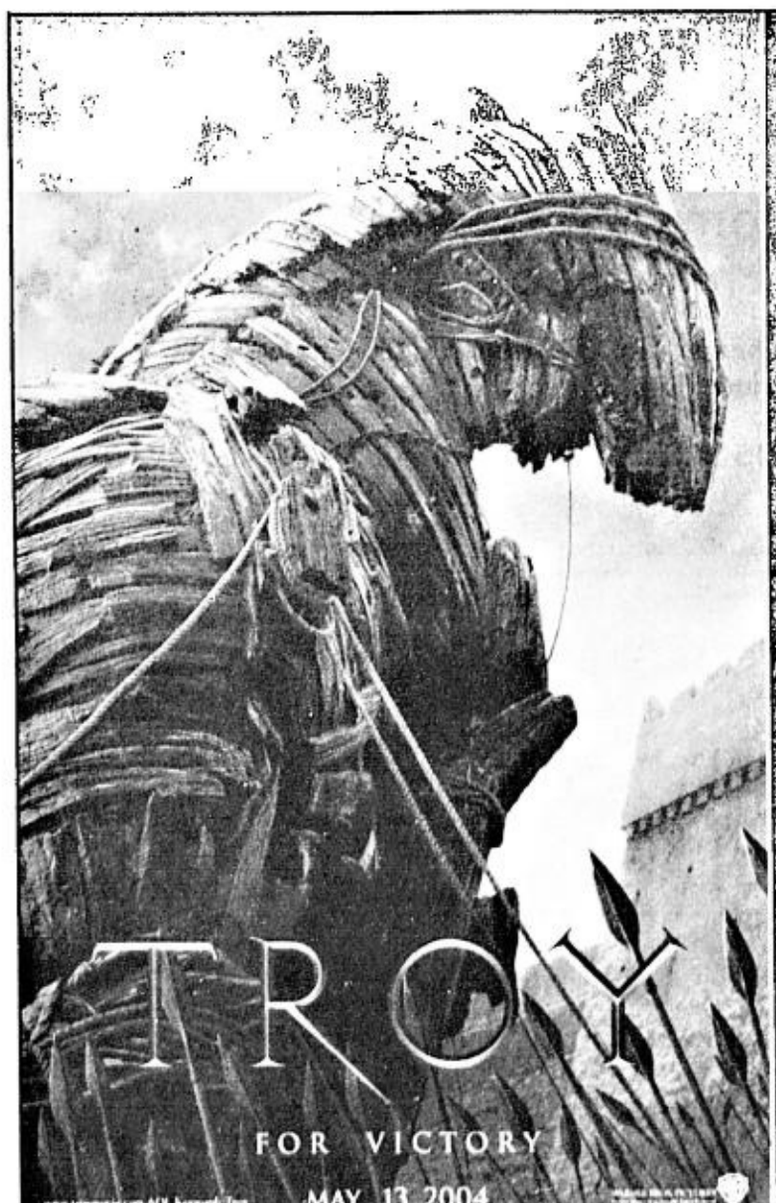

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3	VAN HELSING 12.50, 4.10, 7.30, 11.30	4	MAN ON FIRE 10.35, 1.40, 4.00, 6.25, 9.00	5	HELLBOY 11.20, 1.40, 4.00, 6.25, 9.00
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3	MAN ON FIRE 12.00, 2.40, 5.20, 8.10	4th	STARSKY AND HUTCH 11.30, 1.45, 4.00, 6.15, 8.30	5	SCHOOL OF ROCK 12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.10
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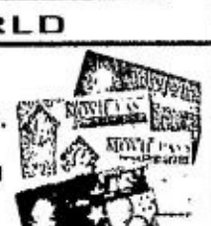

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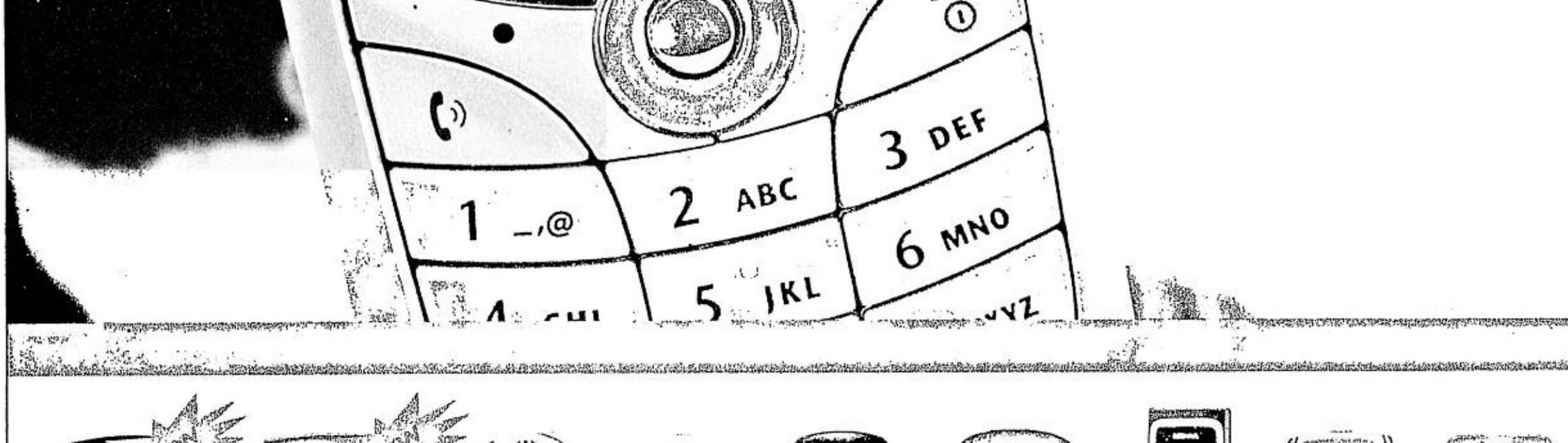

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Kristine to quit show biz, may leave Diether heartbroken

By Marinel R. Cruz

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That man is Diether Ocampo, who the actress said is the closest person to her at the moment.

The actress will join her family to migrate to Canada.

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But her conversation with the entertainment writers revolved around Diether, who might as well be her soul mate.

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But just a few months ago, Kristine had insisted that there were "no sparks" between her and her "Sana'y Wala Ng Wakas" co-star.

Last Tuesday, Kristine changed her tune: "He's not all looks, Diet is also kind-hearted and very down-to-earth."

And how are they alike?

"In many ways," she said. "We're both quiet and simple, but very frank."

She said she and Diether get to hang out together a lot because of work.

"We're always together," Kristine said. "We work until 4 a.m. so we hardly have time for gimmick.

"But if I can, I watch his gigs," said the actress, referring to Diether's five-man alternative band "Blow."

"In fact, I love two of the songs in their album—'Fly with the Angels' and 'Last Breath,'" she said.

But Kristine refused to say whether she and Diether are now romantically involved.

"*Ipaubaya n'yo na lang sa akin 'yon*," was her request.

The two became close on the set of the soap series "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," which was originally conceptualized for Kristine and her former boyfriend Jericho Rosales. Diether, as well as Angelika dela Cruz, were later included in the cast.

"He's 28, almost seven years older than me," Kristine said. "I guess the age gap helped improve our relationship.

"Before we became close, I used to think of him as *babaero* (womanizer). Bad boy *ang* image *nya*. But I realized that people change."

Kristine will turn 21 on Sept. 9. She said she plans to marry at 25, "or maybe earlier than that because I want to still be around to watch my children grow."

She said she prefers going out with older men "because they are more mature and think about their future. Younger guys only think about the present."

When she goes to Canada, Kristine plans to pursue a course in interior design or "anything related to the arts." She might also take up nursing "because there are many job opportunities for nurses there."

Kristine said her family plans to eventually live in Vancouver, which she described as "the perfect place for my parents when they get old."

How can someone as popular as Kristine just drop show biz in exchange for a new life in a country where she will be a nobody?

HERMOSA: Diether and I have the same personality.

JANICE ENCARNACION

"I've been working non-stop since I was 12. To be perfectly honest, I don't want fame and popularity. It's just not me," Kristine explained.

But she admits that she would miss her work and friends in the Philippines even though she "can't wait to go to Canada and have a normal life there."

Kristine, however, still has to finish her contract with ABS-CBN. So she will return to the country after six months in Canada to fulfill her obligations. Under her contract, Kristine has to make one more film for Star Cinema.

In doing "All My Life," the actress confessed that she was worried about working with Aga.

"I was scared of the idea of working with such an intense actor as Aga," she admitted. "But doing the movie was really challenging even if I was worried that I might not be able to meet people's expectations."

Shot on board the luxury cruise ship Superstar Virgo, the movie took the cast and crew to scenic spots in Asia, like Singapore, Langkawi in Malaysia and Phuket in Thailand. It also cooped up the actors inside their cabins.

In the movie, Kristine plays Louie, a financial analyst who discovers on her wedding day that her intended groom had gotten another woman pregnant. Brokenhearted, she runs away and takes a luxury cruise. She meets Sam, played by Aga, an adventurous yachtsman, who teaches Louie that there is more to life than pain and suffering.

A fish called 'new look' captivates Susan Roces

ROCES

By Juan Escandor Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—Susan Roces, wife of Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilpino standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., got hooked on a fish from Bicol called "new look."

The actress searched for the delicacy, a variety of dried fish, which remains soft even when fried, while she was wooing voters in the hometown of presidential aspirant Raul S. Roco last Wednesday.

Roces said she was introduced to the "new look" by former movie producer Marichu Vera Perez. She said she had developed a liking for the unique fish since she first tasted it.

She bought all the stock of "new look" in a dried fish store to bring back to friends in Manila.

But searching for the fish was a hilarious experience for the actress. She related that she had sent her assistant to look for the fish, but the assistant ended up in a beauty parlor named "New Look."

The actress also said she was enthralled by the sites in Bicol, especially Mayon Volcano, which was partly covered by clouds when she saw it.

Roces said she wants to promote Bicol for its tourism potential. She called on local tourists to visit the region before going to foreign countries.

She promised she would come back here to see more of Bicol's tourist sites and interesting places even if her husband does not win as president.

In her campaign statements before the local media here, Roces reiterated Poe's commitment to transparency in government, citing as proof the transparent lives they live as movie stars.

She added that her husband and detained former President Joseph Estrada had pledged years ago to help each other should anyone of them enter politics.

She said that even as they had helped Estrada capture the presidency in 1998, they remained low profile and avoided any act that could be interpreted as currying favor from the former president.

Roces highlighted Poe's 40 years in the movie industry and his struggle as a young man to provide for his family when his father died.

She added that the KNP presidential aspirant was forced to work when he lost their father, which ended a life of comfort and luxury of the Poe family.

But Roces was modest when she told the local media here not to address her as "First Lady." She said it was still premature to call her that.

In a last ditch effort in pitching Poe for president in the so-called Roco country, the Fernando Poe Jr. for President Movement went on a motorcade around the city on Wednesday, hoping to capture the hearts of the fans of Poe and Roces.

Lea returns to Philippine theater for 'Baby'

SHOW TIME

LEA SALONGA, winner of the Tony on Broadway and the Olivier Award at the West End, is coming home to Philippine musical theater in Atlantis Productions' staging of the hit Broadway musical "Baby."

The musical by Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire will mark Lea's return to the musical theater stage after almost four years. She was last seen in a musical in Manila in "Miss Saigon" in 2000.

"Baby" tells the heartwarming story of three couples on a university campus as they deal with the painful, rewarding and agonizingly funny consequences of the universal experience of "parenthood." There are the college students, barely at the beginning of their adult lives; the thirty-something having trouble conceiving but determined to try; and the middle-aged parents looking forward to seeing their last child graduate from college when a night of unexpected passion puts them back where they started.

"Baby" was nominated for seven Tony Awards. Its lyrics are by Richard Maltby Jr. (who also co-wrote "Miss Saigon" with Alain Boulbil), music by David Shire and book by Sybille Pearson.

"Baby" will be directed by Bobby Garcia. Musical direction is by Gerard Salonga, set design by Mio Infante, choreography by Andy Alviz, sound design by Bobbit Jacinto and lighting design by Gerry Fernandez.

It will run at the Meralco Theater in August.

Atlantis Productions, which is celebrating its 5th anniversary this year, has brought to the Philippines such Broadway hits as "Rent," "Proof," "Dreamgirls," "The Rocky Horror Show," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and most recently, the critically acclaimed musical "Urinetown."

Selected presentations of "Baby" are now being made available to interested block buyers and organizations. For more information, please call Atlantis Productions at 892-7078 or 840-1187.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

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By Marinel R. Cruz

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"Before we became close, I used to think of him as *babaero* (womanizer). Bad boy *ang* image *nya*. But I realized that people change."

Kristine will turn 21 on Sept. 9. She said she plans to marry at 25, "or maybe earlier than that because I want to still be around to watch my children grow."

She said she prefers going out with older men "because they are more mature and think about their future. Younger guys only think about the present."

When she goes to Canada, Kristine plans to pursue a course in interior design or "anything related to the arts." She might also take up nursing, "because there are many job opportunities for nurses there."

Kristine said her family plans to eventually live in Vancouver, which she described as "the perfect place for my parents when they get old."

How can someone as popular as Kristine just drop show biz in exchange for a new life in a country where she will be a nobody?

HERMOSA: Diether and I have the same personality.

ANICE ENCARNACION

"I've been working non-stop since I was 12. To be perfectly honest, I don't want fame and popularity. It's just not me," Kristine explained.

But she admits that she would miss her work and friends in the Philippines even though she "can't wait to go to Canada and have a normal life there."

Kristine, however, still has to finish her contract with ABS-CBN. So she will return to the country after six months in Canada to fulfill her obligations. Under her contract, Kristine has to make one more film for Star Cinema.

In doing "All My Life," the actress confessed that she was worried about working with Aga.

"I was scared of the idea of working with such an intense actor as Aga," she admitted. "But doing the movie was really challenging even if I was worried that I might not be able to meet people's expectations."

Shot on board the luxury cruise ship Superstar Virgo, the movie took the cast and crew to scenic spots in Asia, like Singapore, Langkawi in Malaysia and Phuket in Thailand. It also cooped up the actors inside their cabins.

In the movie, Kristine plays Louie, a financial analyst who discovers on her wedding day that her intended groom had gotten another woman pregnant. Brokenhearted, she runs away and takes a luxury cruise. She meets Sam, played by Aga, an adventurous yachtsman, who teaches Louie that there is more to life than pain and suffering.

A fish called 'new look' captivates Susan Roces

ROCES

By Juan Escandor Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—Susan Roces, wife of Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilpino standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., got hooked on a fish from Bicol called "new look."

The actress searched for the delicacy, a variety of dried fish, which remains soft even when fried, while she was wooing voters in the hometown of presidential aspirant Raul S. Roco last Wednesday.

Roces said she was introduced to the "new look" by former movie producer Marichu Vera Perez. She said she had developed a liking for the unique fish since she first tasted it.

She bought all the stock of "new look" in a dried fish store to bring back to friends in Manila.

But searching for the fish was a hilarious experience for the actress. She related that she had sent her assistant to look for the fish, but the assistant ended up in a beauty parlor named "New Look."

The actress also said she was enthralled by the sites in Bicol, especially Mayon Volcano, which was partly covered by clouds when she saw it.

Roces said she wants to promote Bicol for its tourism potential. She called on local tourists to visit the region before going to foreign countries.

She promised she would come back here to see more of Bicol's tourist sites and interesting places even if her husband does not win as president.

In her campaign statements before the local media here, Roces reiterated Poe's commitment to transparency in government, citing as proof the transparent lives they live as movie stars.

She added that her husband and detained former President Joseph Estrada had pledged years ago to help each other should anyone of them enter politics.

She said that even as they had helped Estrada capture the presidency in 1998, they remained low profile and avoided any act that could be interpreted as currying favor from the former president.

Roces highlighted Poe's 40 years in the movie industry and his struggle as a young man to provide for his family when his father died.

She added that the KNP presidential aspirant was forced to work when he lost their father, which ended a life of comfort and luxury of the Poe family.

But Roces was modest when she told the local media here not to address her as "First Lady." She said it was still premature to call her that.

In a last ditch effort in pitching Poe for president in the so-called Roco country, the Fernando Poe Jr. for President Movement went on a motorcade around the city on Wednesday, hoping to capture the hearts of the fans of Poe and Roces.

Lea returns to Philippine theater for 'Baby'

SHOW TIME

LEA SALONGA, winner of the Tony on Broadway and the Olivier Award at the West End, is coming home to Philippine musical theater in Atlantis Productions' staging of the hit Broadway musical "Baby."

The musical by Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire will mark Lea's return to the musical theater stage after almost four years. She was last seen in a musical in Manila in "Miss Saigon" in 2000.

"Baby" tells the heartwarming story of three couples on a university campus as they deal with the painful, rewarding and agonizingly funny consequences of the universal experience of "parenthood." There are the college students, barely at the beginning of their adult lives; the thirty-something having trouble conceiving but determined to try; and the middle-aged parents looking forward to seeing their last child graduate from college when a night of unexpected passion puts them back where they started.

"Baby" was nominated for seven Tony Awards. Its lyrics are by Richard Maltby Jr. (who also co-wrote "Miss Saigon" with Alain Boublil), music by David Shire and book by Sybille Pearson.

"Baby" will be directed by Bobby Garcia. Musical direction is by Gerard Salonga, set design by Mio Infante, choreography by Andy Alviz, sound design by Bobbit Jacinto and lighting design by Gerry Fernandez.

It will run at the Metalco Theater in August.

Atlantis Productions, which is celebrating its 5th anniversary this year, has brought to the Philippines such Broadway hits as "Rent," "Proof," "Dreamgirls," "The Rocky Horror Show," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and most recently, the critically acclaimed musical "Urinetown."

Selected presentations of "Baby" are now being made available to interested block buyers and organizations. For more information, please call Atlantis Productions at 892-7078 or 840-1187

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Just what the TV doctor ordered

VIEWERS who find local TV either shlocky or cynical to the max can take heart by watching the new GMA-7 show, "At Your Service," competently hosted by **Rhea Santos**, at 7:30 a.m. every Saturday.

The program is just what the TV doctor ordered, because it focuses, not on ditzy teens with nothing but the latest shampoo (with conditioner) between their ears, but on people who want to make things better in their community (translation: barangay).

It's that simple, but it works. It must be because we've had it up to *here* with many other programs,

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

which concentrate on glitz rather than content.

For its part, "At Your Service" goes to a community, pinpoints a problem affecting many people there, works out a solution, and makes sure that there is careful follow-through, so the project doesn't fizzle out after the initial thrill is gone.

This cognizance of the onus of Pinoys' usual *ningas cogon* mentality should make the show's efforts more effective on a long-term basis. Coupled with the program's self-help and *bayanihan* imperatives, it can make "At Your Service" genuinely exceptionally successful.

On its premiere telecast, the program tackled the problem of chronic unemployment in a barangay by organizing a job fair participated in by an impressive number of companies.

People were hired on the spot after they were given pointers on how to present themselves at their best during job interviews.

It was sadly instructive to see some *istambays* filling up application forms in all their topless and barefooted "glory." They were sweetly advised to first put on a shirt and decent footwear before taking their chances in the job market.—This was obviously news to some of them!

Then, there was the young man who gave as his I.D. photo the picture of a male starlet!—What in the world did he hope to achieve with that impudent ruse?

These incidents on the show said a lot about why some people here remain jobless on a more or less permanent basis. Thus, the program obviously has its work cut out for itself in its admirable effort to motivate the "self-defeated" to better their lives by getting a job.

At the end of the job fair, some people proudly affirmed that they had been hired. Unfortunately, the show didn't come up with figures on exactly how many people had found employment that day.

This was a pity, since that statistic would have motivated jobless viewers at home to also get off their butts and get a job.

Other good features included an anti-rabies campaign, and a community's efforts to put up a public library for children. We hope to see more such inspiring success stories on "At Your Service" every Saturday morning, from here on.

Support the show with your appreciative viewership, why don't you?

Feedback

FROM **Lilia Alvarez** of Muntinlupa City: "There seems to be no sense of sin among some of our stars, especially the wannabes. A few days ago, a starlet was even proud to say on TV that she could be a heterosexual or a homosexual, a 'strike anywhere' type. And two female starlets got married in Las Vegas and proudly told the world that their marriage was illegal, and then they went on to wash their dirty linen in public.

"Whatever happened to shame? I guess it's hard joining show biz without embracing the ways of the world. I'm deeply saddened by the way some of our stars behave on TV.

"They should emulate **Paula Abdul** on 'American idol'—she's polite diplomatic, gracious and civilized."

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9	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
10	PETER PAN

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3	WHOLE 10 YARDS
4	I WILL SURVIVE

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4	MAN ON FIRE

South

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3	VAN HELSING
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8	HELLBOY

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5	PAYCHECK
6	ACACIA
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8	VAN HELSING

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7	RESERVED
8	TAKING LIVES

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3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	PAYCHECK
5	VAN HELSING
6	HELLBOY

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2	PETER PAN
3	THE CURSE
4	HELL BOY

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1
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11:15 FS/ 11:45
MF/2:00/4:15/ 10:30
LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

2
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MF/2:15/5:00/ 10:30
LFS/ 11:00 LMF/ 1:15
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4	I WILL SURVIVE

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3	ANIMAL

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2	RESERVE
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5	VAN HELSING

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3	HELLBOY
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	VAN HELSING
6	HAUNTED SPIRIT

www.clickthecity.com.ph star
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2	I WILL SURVIVE

PREMIERE CINEMA
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2	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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1	EVIL - 4
2	MY GOOD LAWYERS WIFE
3	
4	

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5 RESERVE
6
7
8
9

Gotesco Grand Central
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2	HELLBOY
3	MAN OF FIRE
4	STARSKY & HUTCH
5	I WILL SURVIVE
6	VAN HELSING
7	VAN HELSING
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Gotesco Commonwealth
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1	RESERVE
2	
3	
4	
5	

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4	ANIMAL
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3	HELLBOY

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3	SCHOOL OF ROCK
4	WHOLE 10 YARD

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4	WHOLE 10 YARD

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2	PAY CHECK
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	TAKING LIVES

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2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	MAN OF FIRE

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1	TWISTED
2	CHECK - INN
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	DALAWANG PISNGI

Lianas MovieCity
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1	HELLBOY
2	BONE SNATCHERS
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	SCHOOL OF ROCK
5	WHOLE 10 YARD

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2	NAGDADALAGA

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2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Mega Center Mall
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2	TAKING LIVES
3	PASSION OF CHRIST
4	PAY CHECK

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1	RESERVE

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2	WHOLE 10 YARD
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'School of Rock' teaches pure joy

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

THERE'S an in-joke quality to "School of Rock" that makes it all the more hilarious to those knowledgeable in the dynamics of rock 'n' roll. But as music and human comedy, it works just fine for the younger ones, too. I know my kids (Jacob 5, and Gabby, 3) loved it. They keep repeating the lines and singing the songs from the movie. So far they've only done the same for "Lizzie Maguire, The Movie."

Written by Mike White (who also appears in the movie) and directed with delightful good cheer by indie-filmmaker Richard Linklater ("Dazed and Confused"), "School of Rock" is rock-and-roll presented at its "family" best. This may be the only movie that embodies rock in a way that makes it appealing both to adults and their offspring. I don't believe the movie deserves its PG-13 rating, but perhaps it's best that way so parents can see it with their kids.

BLACK with talented 10-year-olds with whom he forms a rock band.

The mercurial force at the center of this loud, rollicking, comic extravaganza is Jack Black of "High Fidelity" and "Shallow Hal." He plays Dewey Finn, a rock musician who's so rebellious and anti-establishment he might as well have been born at Woodstock. Dewey not only carries a deep and abiding love for rock music; the music is his life.

When we find him, though, Dewey seems destined for that dark end of the street where rock musicians simply fade away. He's just been dumped by the band he founded. His fellow band members say they want to be taken seriously. They want to land a recording gig and win this "Battle of the Bands" contest, and they can't do it with Dewey doing his "immature" 20-minute guitar solos and silly stage dives. In his last performance, he dived into the crowd and no one caught him.

To make matters worse, his best friend and housemate Ned (White, the film's writer), from whom he's been "mooching off for years," now has an overbearing girlfriend who's pressuring Dewey to pay his share of the rent, or else.

Desperate for money, Dewey takes a call meant for Ned, a substitute teacher by profession, and lies his way into a job teaching fifth graders at a prestigious elementary school.

At first, Dewey's content to just chill out long enough to collect a paycheck. But he soon discovers that some of the kids in his class have actually got musical talent, and it doesn't take much imagination to guess where this will end up. Before long, Dewey manages to make a rock band out of the 10-year-olds in his care. Those who are not playing in the band are still part of the band, designing wardrobes, making T-shirts and other band paraphernalia, taking care of the lighting and special effects, providing the security... Dewey's got roles for all of them. Summer, the smartest girl in class, even gets to be the band manager when she refused to be a groupie.

What great rock can do

Dewey teaches them everything he knows. Aside from band practice, he gives them lectures in rock history, rock appreciation, and the philosophy of "sticking it to the man." He becomes the John Keating (Robin Williams' character in "Dead Poets Society") of rock 'n' roll, stirring the hearts and minds of his students not with "carpe diem" exhortations but with the idea that "one great rock show can change the world."

We know this formula, and "School of Rock" follows it in a kind of easygoing way. But the movie generates so much goodwill and so many laughs that we would gladly overlook its predictability, perhaps not even notice it altogether. For the same reason, even if the movie were fairytale-ish, one would be most happy to dismiss any intervention of reality.

There are a lot of great visual jokes that capitalize on Black's broadly demonstrative comic style but the best thing about the movie is the sheer pleasure of watching him perform with the kids.

Black is a real-life musician, being the lead singer and guitarist of a band called Tenacious D, and he is as lethally funny as he is impressive and endearing at presenting the visceral pleasures of rock music. He seems to know that this is a once-in-a-lifetime movie for him and he plays his moments to the hilt.

Uncanny ease

Although most of the kids in the movie are novice actors, there's not a slouch among them. They take to the screen with uncanny ease, both individually and as members of an ensemble.

Linklater and White give the sequences between Black and the kids a natural pace that is right on the money. The sense of comedy is organic in every scene and even the tender moments never turn saccharine or stiff.

Then there's the sheer pleasure of watching and listening to the band. It doesn't take much foot tapping, or perhaps more appropriately, head banging, to realize that this on-screen band is real. Not only Black but also the kid-musicians can really rock, and even the backup singers can really belt it out (one of them looks and sounds like a young Aretha Franklin).

When they play, it's almost impossible to stay in your seat. And when the movie's over, you'll see that it's also almost impossible to leave it.

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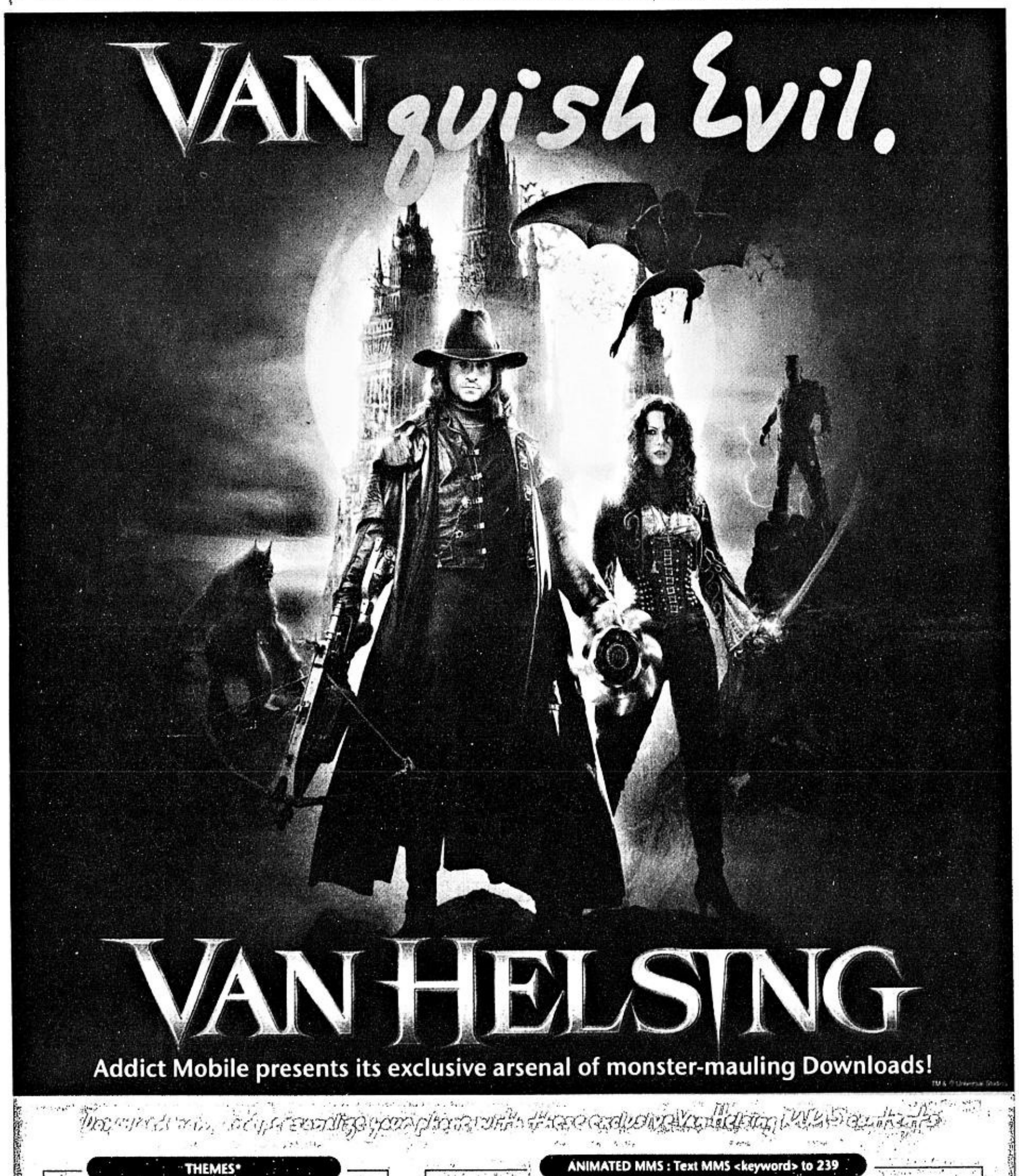

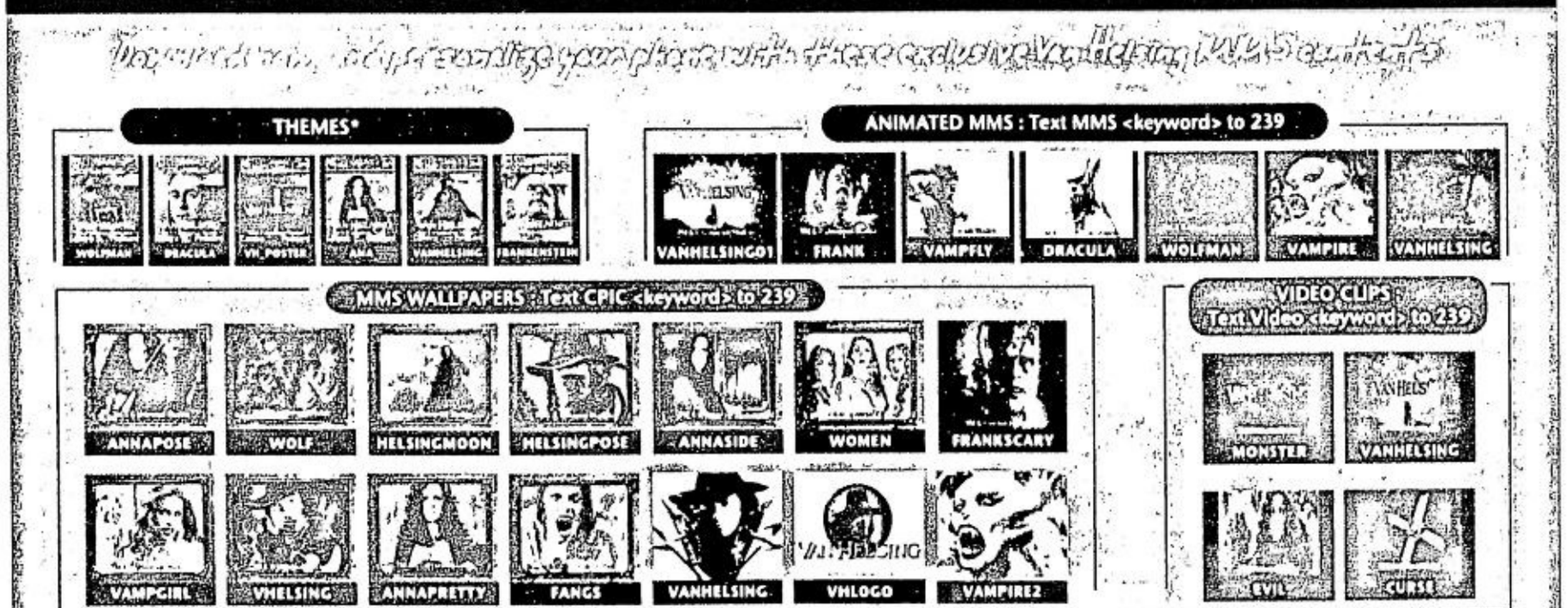

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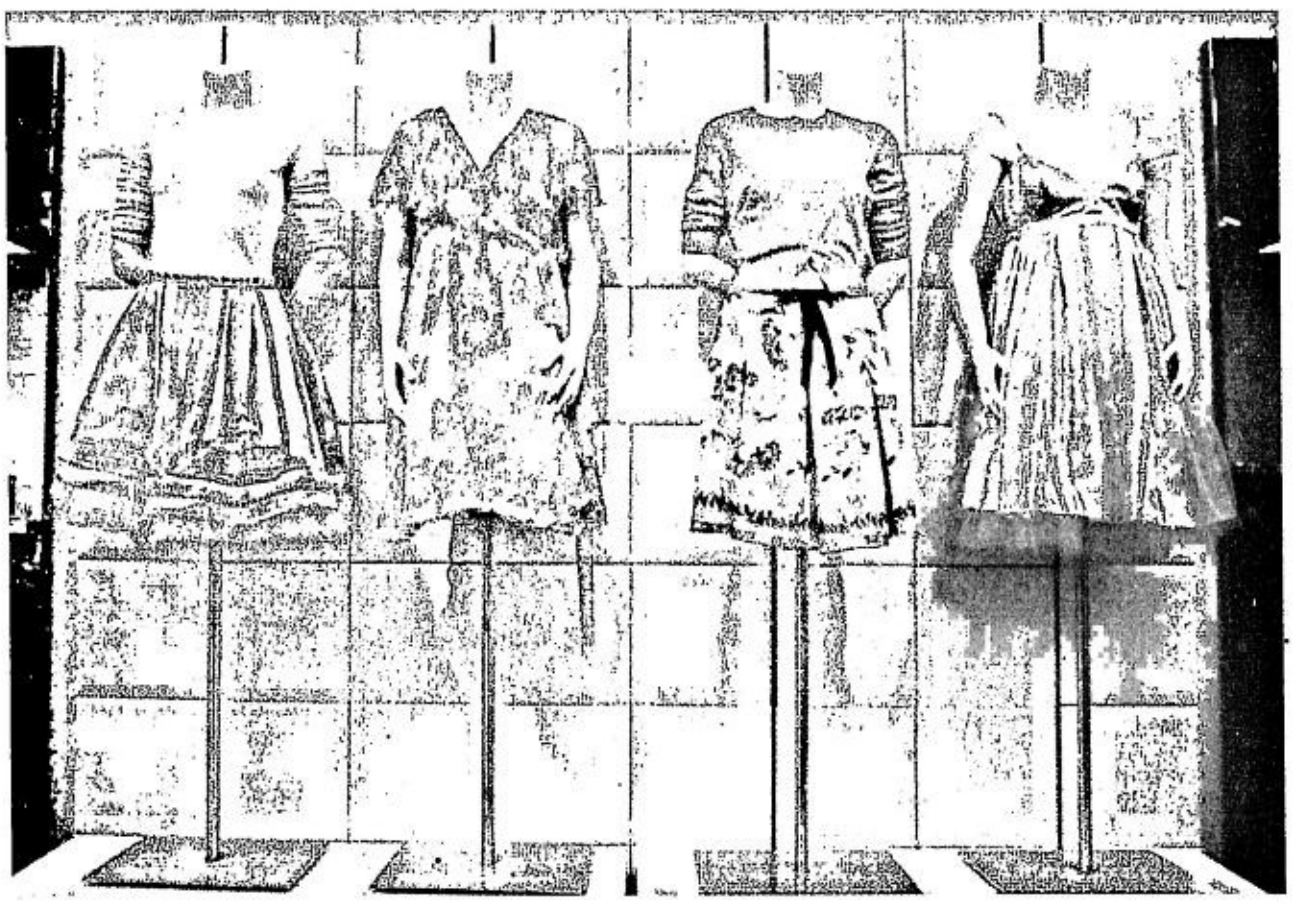
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

BEN Chan's lifestyle store is a Shanghai surprise /E1

Bloomingdale's, is that really you?



A LINEUP of color-splashed skirts and dresses for summer by young designer Derek Lam, set up at Bloomingdale's SoHo.
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK—Mention Bloomingdale's to Jodi Sweetbaum and the name uncorks a stream of nostalgia.

"Bloomingdale's," rhapsodized Sweetbaum, the business manager for a New York advertising agency."It was very coveted when I was in my teens. It was where you went for real fashion, for the new, most fashion-forward clothes. They had everything."

In those days, the 1970s and '80s, the department store at Lexington Avenue and 59th Street, in Manhattan, was a shrine to consumption scarcely rivaled in New York. Style-struck shoppers experienced the thrill of snapping up the latest bougainvillea-tinted lipstick from Yves Saint Laurent, dagger-heeled shoes from Charles Jourdan or fashions from standard-bearers of the avant-garde like Kenzo and Norma Kamali.

Once, a fashion-crazed passer-by smashed a window to swipe an armload of Claude Montana suits.

Fast-forward a couple of decades to a store still thriving but much altered. A jewel in the coronet of the Federated Department Stores, with 32 branches generating about $2 billion in annual sales, Bloomingdale's outshines most department-store rivals.

But it has also ceded fashion excitement and leadership to smaller, more narrowly focused stores, sliding, some say, into complacency.

SoHo opening

Hoping to change that, to get its groove back, the chain is dropping anchor in SoHo in a bid to reclaim its stature as an arbiter of hip. Built at a cost estimated at $30 to $35 million, the six-level SoHo emporium is meant to capitalize on the flood of young, fashion-focused shoppers, local and from out of town, who prowl SoHo on weekends.

> It was where you went for the most fashion-forward clothes until it ceded authority to the smaller boutiques; now it's reclaiming its crown with its SoHo store

"Getting into that location raises the bar on being cool, and it gives Bloomingdale's the opportunity to go all out on the grooviness scale," said Candace Corlett, a principal in WSL Strategic Retail, a New York consulting firm.

Calling the move necessary if the store is to regain its former fashion leadership, she added, "They're going to have to go all out on the hip meter. Otherwise they're going to be very disappointing. This can't be my mom's Bloomingdale's."

Small chance. The cast-iron and stone building at 504 Broadway, between Spring and Broome Streets, dispenses with Bloomingdale's traditions in all but its signature black-and-white checkerboard main floor. Lighter and airier than the uptown flagship, the store's interior is modeled on a multilevel loft, its design a mix of the old and the new: brick walls, cast-iron columns and arched windows, tin ceilings, which contrast with the sleek white marble floors and frosted glass.

The main doors of the 90,000-square-foot store open onto a three-story atrium. A full city block from front to back, the T-shape structure, with a set of doors on Broadway and another on Crosby Street, is illuminated by a series of arches and openings, allowing light to penetrate even into its fitting rooms.

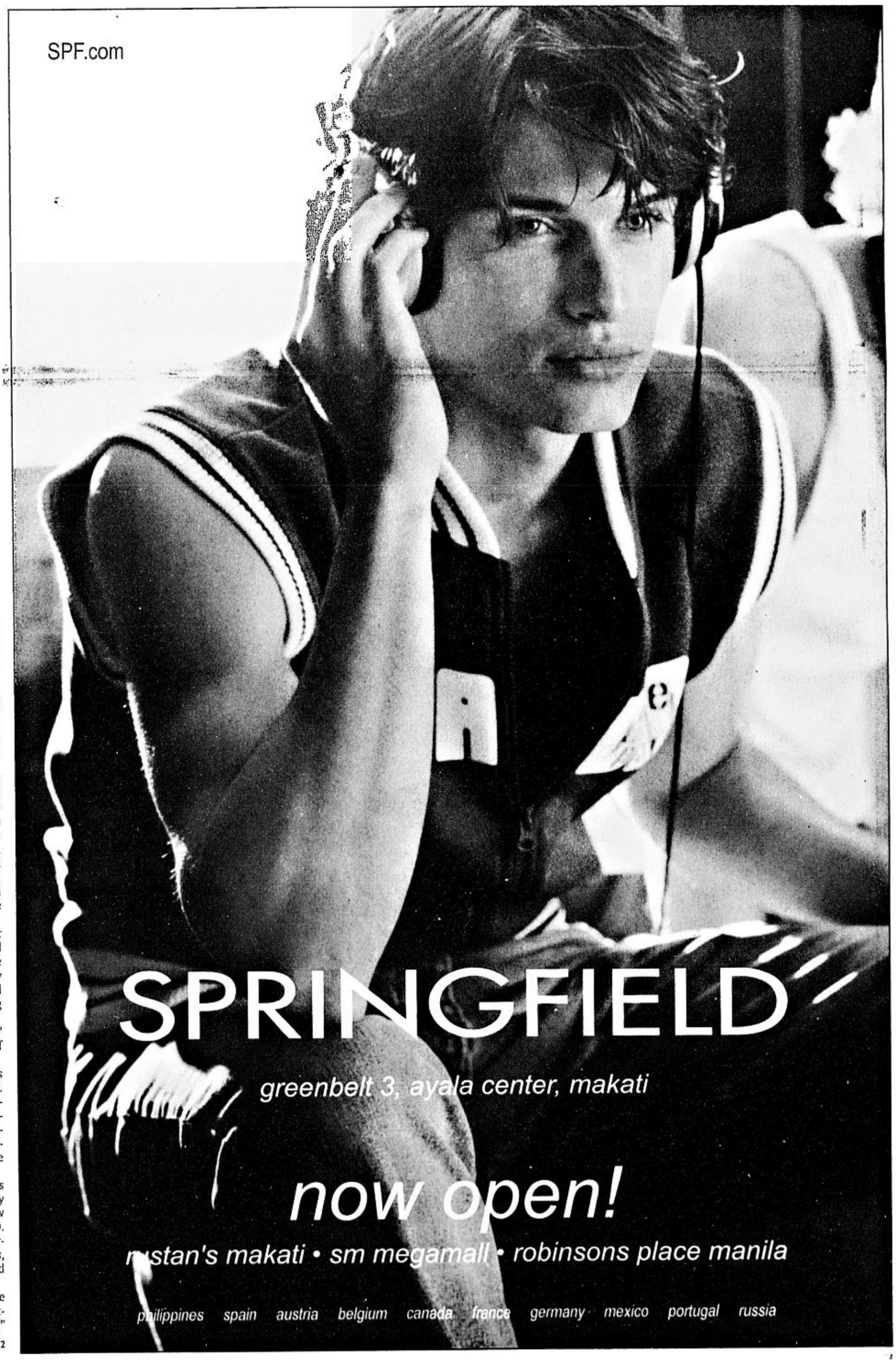
"It will not look like a department store," said Michael Gould, the chairman and chief executive of Bloomingdale's.

Nor will it sell department store mainstays like wedding gowns and home furnishings. Instead, the concentration is on youth-oriented designers, many of whom are not represented at Bloomingdale's uptown, and expensive skin treatments, cosmetics and fragrances from Prada, Trish McEvoy, Creme de la Mer, Jo Malone and Nars.

The store is highlighting progressive looks from the next generation of runway stars—Zac Posen, Derek Lam, Jeffrey Chow and Peter Som—that retail for $400 to $700. It will also present moderately priced offerings from Twinkle and Marc by Marc Jacobs, Anna Sui and Diane von Furstenberg, priced from about $200 to $400.

"Because this is a downtown store, we wanted to make the merchandise more cutting-edge than in any of our other stores,"

BLOOMINGDALE'S/ D2



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Bloomingdale's, is that really you?

A DISPLAY of handbags in kaleidoscopic patterns and bright colors set up at Bloomingdale's SoHo
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SWIMSUITS set up at Bloomingdale's SoHo
THE NEW YORK TIMES

From page D1

said Kal Ruttenstein, the chain's senior vice president for fashion direction.

There will also be merchandise made by name designers expressly for the store. To get a jump on fall's big runway trend of pencil skirts, the store is offering specially made versions from T ory in muted, season-spanning pinstripes plaids, paired with white stretch cotton shirts.

In coming months, the merchandise as ment will be in flux. "We are still not what we want it to be," said Gould, the c man. "The customers will tell us, and we just." Ruttenstein said that Blooming SoHo would be a laboratory. "We're al going to test new vendors and designers said.

The company will not comment on th ume of sales it expects, but industry estim are around $45 million in first-year sales about $500 per square foot of floor s compared with $900 in sales per square at the uptown store.

Alvin J. Rosenstein, a marketing and ness professor at Adelphi University in den City, NY, pointed out that in recent specialty stores like Scoop, Marc Jacob Barneys Co-Op have taken the lead in York fashion retailing.

"You have these small stores and bouti

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SOUTH Sea pearls from Jewelmer

Pearls go mod for mother

JEWELMER, the South Sea pearl producer and jeweler, gives a European touch to lariat necklaces, summer's must-have jewelry because of their distinctive and unconventional designs.

Rings of iridescent mother-of-pearl are polished and linked with 18-karat white or yellow gold to complement a solitary South Sea pearl.

The new lariat necklaces are part of a series of modern and wearable jewelry pieces that Jewelmer will release this year.

Visit the Jewelmer showrooms at the Peninsula Manila, Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Glorietta IV, SM Megamall, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu. Call 8100266, fax 8189778 or e-mail sales@jewelmer.com.

Write Mom a letter

THIS Mother's Day why not tell your Mom how much she means to you in a letter that she can read over and over again.

Bic, maker of fine writing instruments, gives some letter-writing tips.

- Be specific or concrete. You don't have to use fancy or flowery words, just sincere ones.
- If what you wrote still doesn't express what you want to say, include a suitable poem, properly attributed, of course, in your letter.
- Practice your penmanship. A handwritten letter is more personal and has more warmth than a typewritten one.
- Use stationery, especially scented or crafted paper to further show Mom how special she is.
- Color her world. Jazz up your letter with multi-hued pens like the Bic Round Stic Grip ballpens.
- Add visuals. Kids could add drawings or pictures of themselves. Adults could include photos of their spouses and children. They can also have the pictures mounted first on cardboard using Bic Glue Stick for a homemade Mother's Day postcard.

Bic ballpoint pens, gel pens and mechanical pencils are available at all National Book Store branches and other leading retail outlets nationwide.

Say it

HAVE A GREE MOTHE

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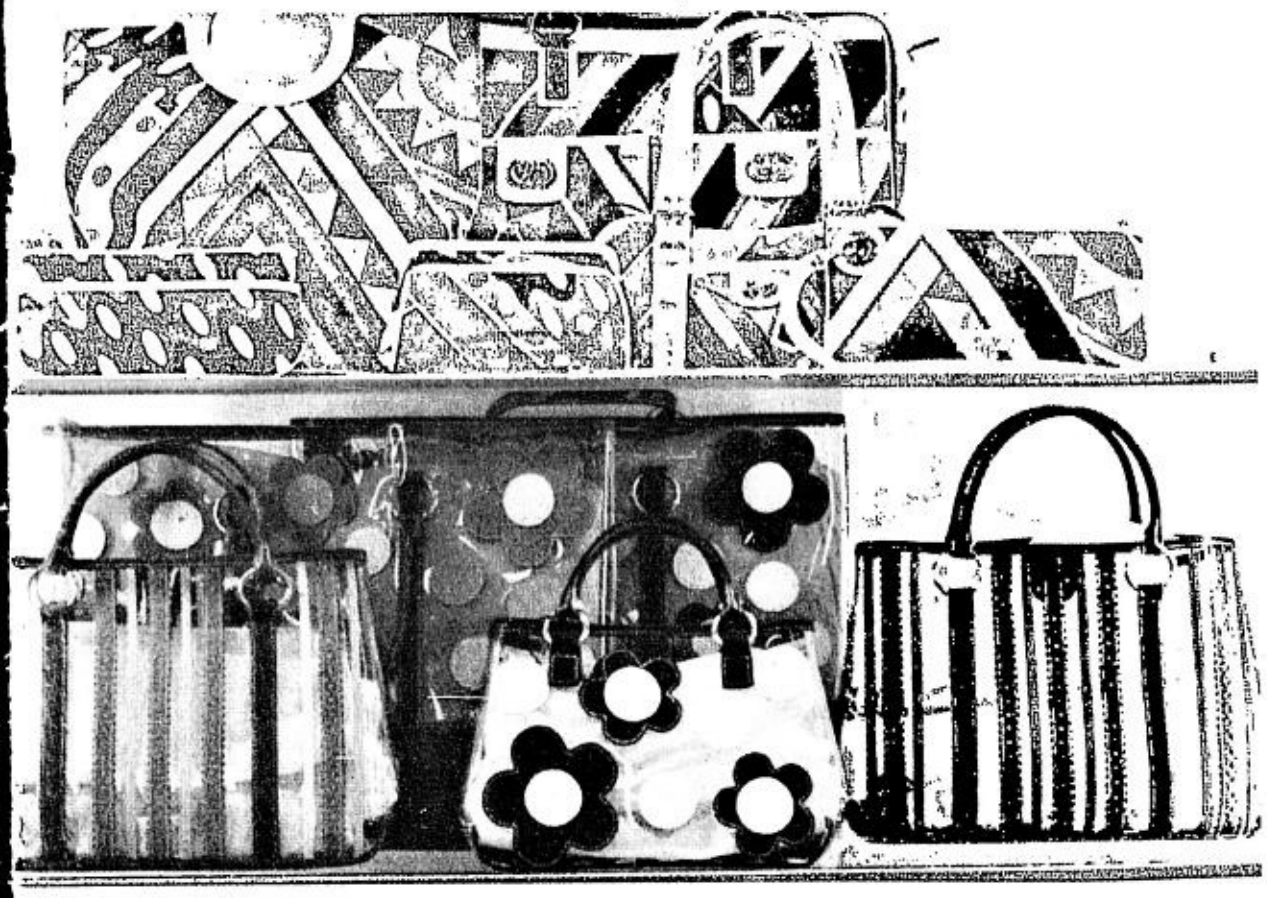

NEARLY a dozen new boutiques have opened unheralded in SoHo, playground of ineffable hip, where Bloomingdale's has dropped anchor. THE NEW YORK TIMES

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in SoHo and down in the Village," said Rosenstein, a consultant to retailers including J.C. Penney. "Bloomingdale's may feel they could get their fair share of that business."

He predicted that the new store would probably succeed. "What they have to offer that these other stores don't offer is selection," he added.

Todd Slater, a director and retail analyst at Lazard Freres, similarly suggested the outlook is good. "They are opening in virgin territory, where no department stores exist," he said. "There is virtually no competition in the area. No other store offers the convenience of having so many brands in so many categories under one roof."

But Gregg Clark, a retail consultant in Manhattan, was less sanguine. "It's better to go to the designer stores directly," Clark said. "They offer better service, not as confusing."

A number of retail experts gave the store high marks for enterprise. "This move will make Bloomingdale's part of the downtown culture," said Corlett, the consultant. "The challenge will be to fit in." *NYTNS*

with a card

EXPRESS your love and appreciation for Mom this Mother's Day with a suitable card from Hallmark Cards.

The cards are available at all National Book Store outlets nationwide.

Some of the more remarkable mothers in history are feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, mother of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly who wrote "Frankenstein"; Anna Reeves Jarvis, who started lobbying for the annual observance of Mother's Day, a campaign carried on by her daughter, Anna Jarvis; Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, mother to the late United States President John F. Kennedy, the late Senator Robert and incumbent Senator Edward Kennedy; Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mom, mother to Queen Elizabeth II; Candy Lightner, founder of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

This Mother's Day, Hallmark cards also offer a genuine leather key chain that can hold your special wishes and messages for your Mom. Just cut messages along dotted lines and insert into the key chain. She can also change the message or use the chain for holding reminders. The key chains are available in three designs at National Book Store branches nationwide and other leading retail outlets.

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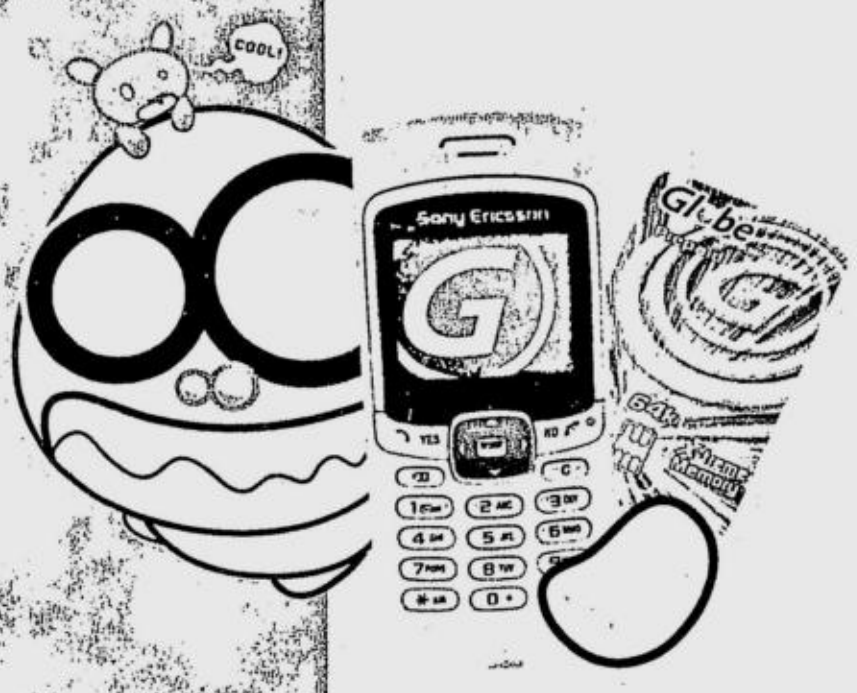

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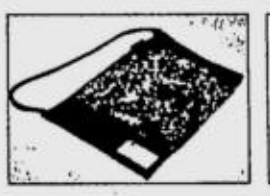

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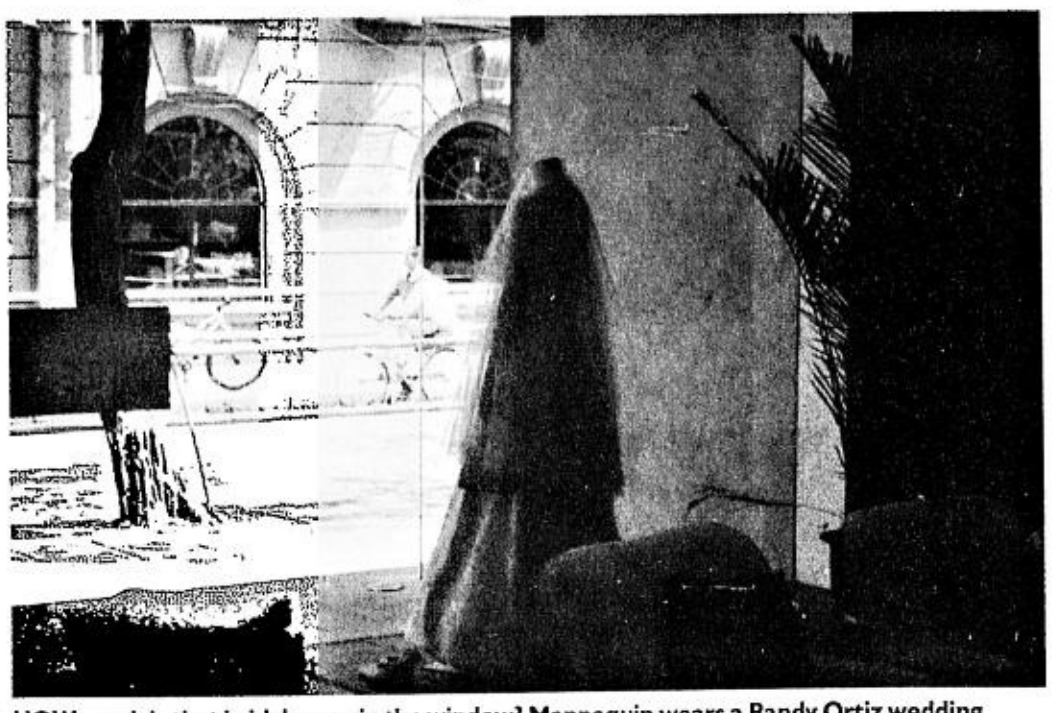


HOW much is that bridal gown in the window? Mannequin wears a Randy Ortiz wedding ensemble. White sofas and chairs seat guests of the café within the store.

A good Magazine you can't put down

Text and photos by Chelo Banal-Formoso

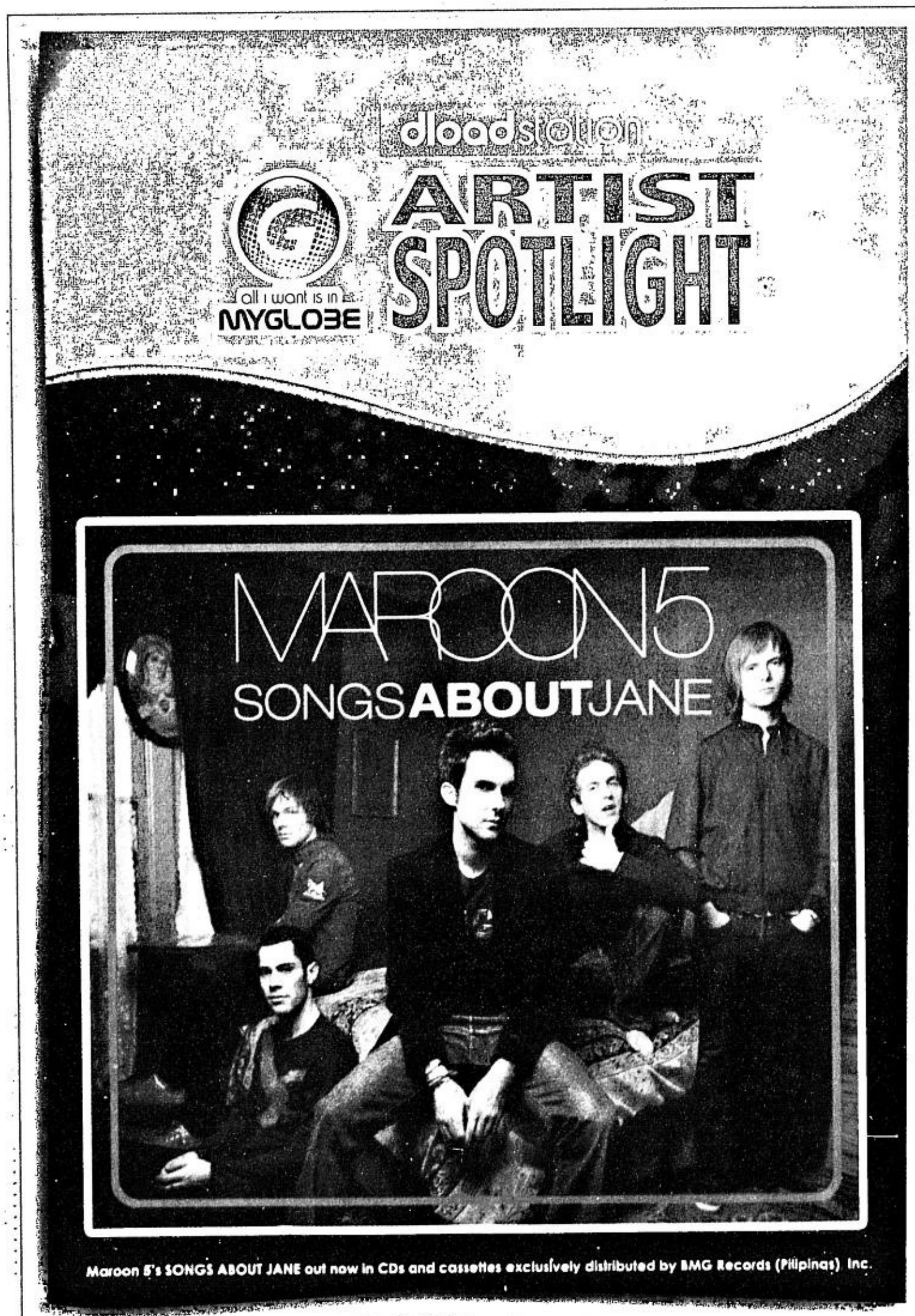
IN WHAT was originally known as the French Concession in Shanghai, a district with Sycamore-lined streets and 1930s architecture, Shanghai literally springs a surprise on you: a lifestyle store named Magazine that sells Philippine-made furniture, home accessories, art, clothes, bags, jewelry and other desirable things.

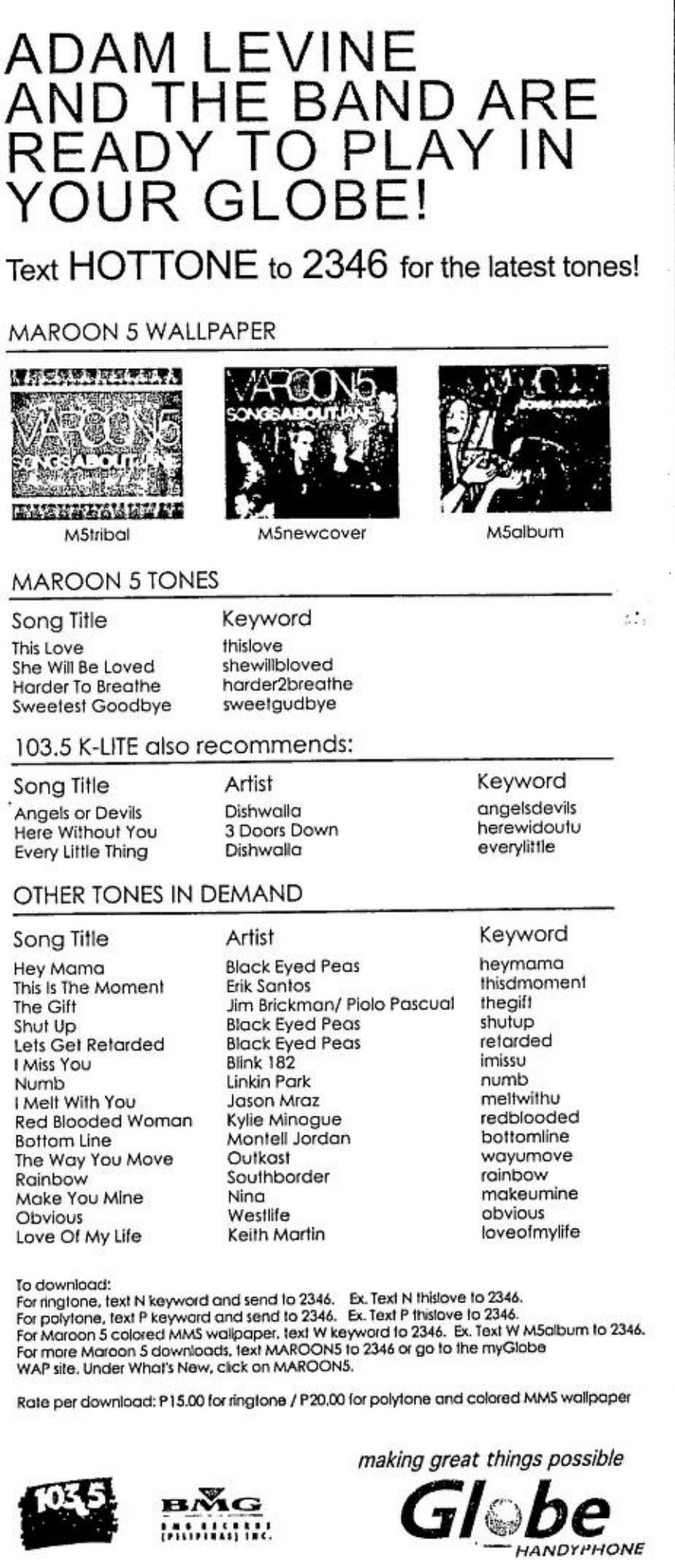
The display window stops you on your tracks. The mannequin is wearing a beautiful wedding gown designed by Randy Ortiz, obviously with Old-World romance in mind. Other bridal gowns and casual clothes designed by Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Jojie Lloren, Dennis Lustico, Rhett Eala and Ortiz are in the inner rooms. You'll also find bags by Martinique, the most beautiful to have and to hold this side of the Orient.

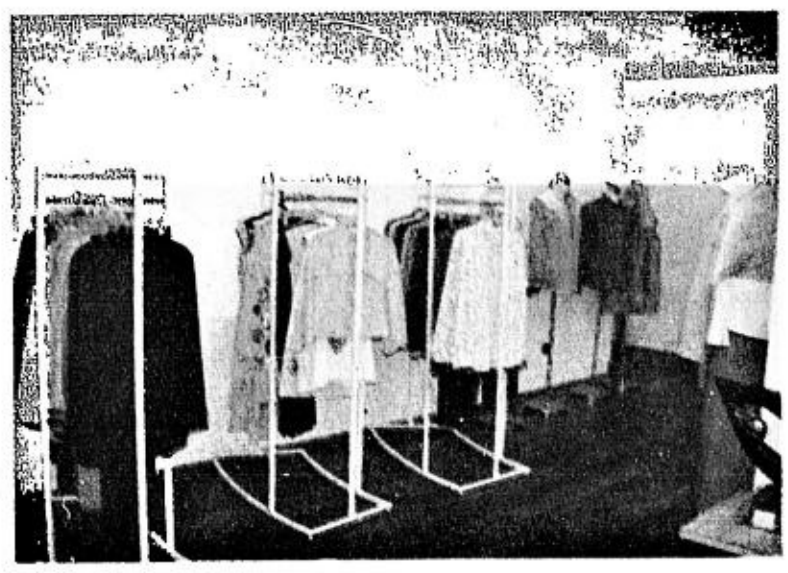
Magazine is a revelation. Tables made of banana stalk, sugar cane and coconut trays, bamboo screens, Mactan stone counter tops, candle holders of all sizes and make—all the prettiest stuff that you've never seen in Gordon's Wow Philippines. Where have all these treasures been hiding?

Retail king Ben Chan collaborated with Miguel Pastor and his nephew Carlson Chan on the concept of Magazine. His Manila-

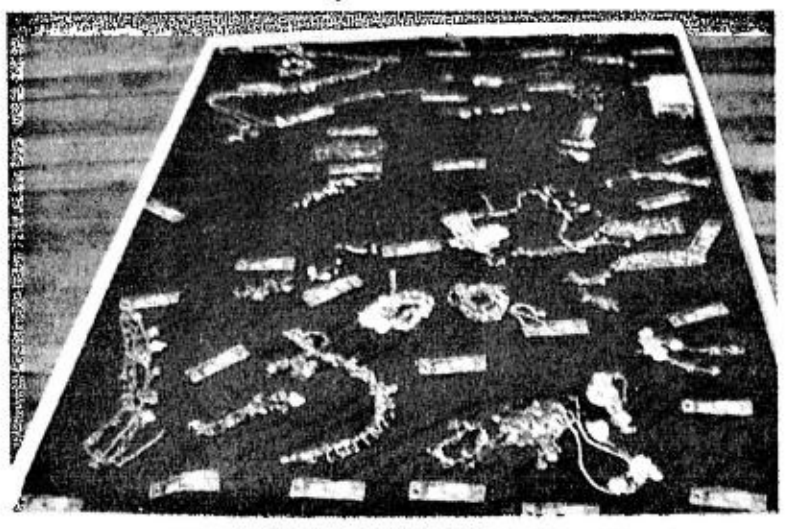
A GOOD/ E2







RACKS OF CLOTHES designed by Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Randy Ortiz, Jojie Lloren, Dennis Lustico and Rhett Eala, all Pinoys



JEWELRY from Avatar

ASSORTED ceramics and tableware from Chinese artisans

A good Magazine you can't put down

This lifestyle store opens up to a Shanghai surprise of Pinoy design verve and creativity, an island of flair in a bustling continent

From page E1

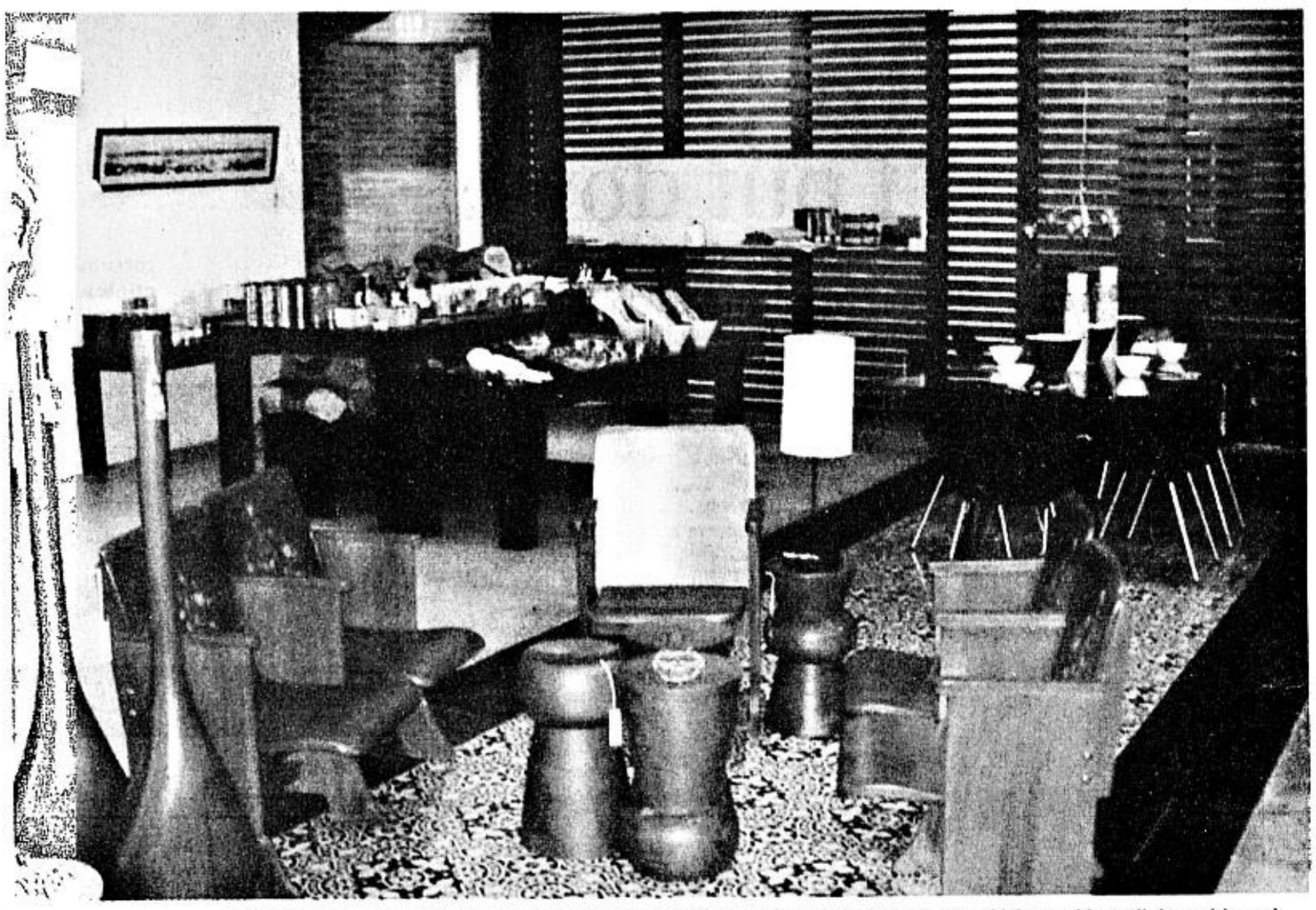
based Suyen Marketing is responsible for sourcing and the Shanghai-based Liwayway Marketing takes care of the retail side and is frontlined by Carlson.

The Chans had been mulling the idea of entering the Shanghai market for years. They couldn't decide between selling garments à la Bench or dealing in home furnishings a la Dimensione. Why not both? Thus was born Magazine. It is actually a spin-off of last year's highly successful Philippine exhibition in Shanghai. After the fair, said Carlson, they asked themselves: What happens next?

Desiring to capitalize on the goodwill created by the country exhibition, they agreed to get into a retail business that would sell things Philippine.

"Since real estate was booming and people were building, renovating and refurnishing houses, we thought of opening a home store," says Carlson. "The Thais and the Vietnamese were already in the market with their furniture and home accessories. Filipino *na lang ang wala pa.*"

At first they were apprehensive about filling up 400 sq m of space. They also had a hard time convincing the Cebu furniture makers to export to China. "They were apprehensive about selling to the Chinese," says Ben. "They were afraid of copycats." But the Cebuanos relented and once the furniture arrived from Cebu, the Chans realized what a blessing it was that they had all that space to indulge in Filipino creativity.



WOODEN theater chairs in single and double versions, solid wood stool by Design Alchemy, Linea dining table and armchair by Kenneth Cobonpue, Spanish tiles by Habitiles; J.Lo sculpture/vase in fiberglass by Design Alchemy; hanging capiz lamp by TN Philippines

PHOTOS TAKEN USING FUJI FINEPIX F601ZOOM

HIGH AND LOW. Painting by Jojo Lofranco, low table with Mactan stone by Classical Geometry, wooden carved vase by Design Alchemy, lamp and bookends by local Chinese artists

"The furniture have been our best sellers," says Carlson. "We've had no problems with our stocks because the Cebu exporters are so professional and experienced."

The Chans wanted to be purists; Magazine was going to sell 100-percent Filipino or bust. But the reality of retailing has made them see the wisdom in buying ceramics and dinnerware right in China, where they were cheaper, better and less likely to break in transit. Other than the ceramics, everything is still sourced in the Philippines.

It seems natural for an import store like Magazine to segue into supplying other furniture stores in Shanghai and beyond. "Right now, our plans are to go into wholesale and to deepen each product line instead of widening the range," says Carlson.

It is obvious that both uncle and nephew are proud of the goods they carry in Magazine. Ben is so enamored of Cebu furniture he has an armchair by Kenneth Cobonpue in his own home. As for Carlson, he loves his *butaca*, which Cobonpue has modernized, along with an ergonomically designed backrest.

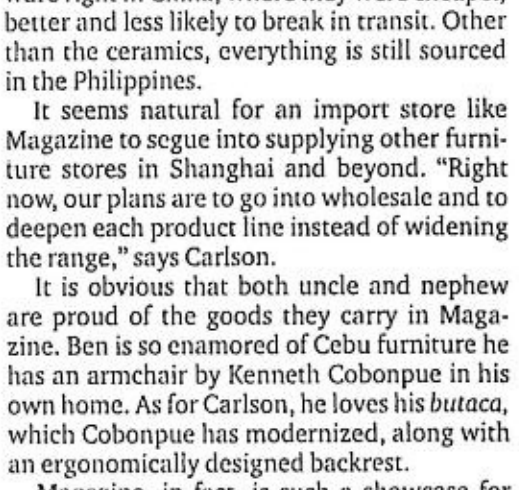
Magazine, in fact, is such a showcase for Filipino ingenuity and craftsmanship it is a favorite venue for Philippine consulate affairs in Shanghai. The shop has a cafe furnished with white sofas and chairs. White furniture is always luxurious whether it's configured for a shop in Shanghai or a chateau in France.

One of the most heartening comments about the shop reads: "I've lived in the Philippines for many years and this is the best collection I've seen in one place."

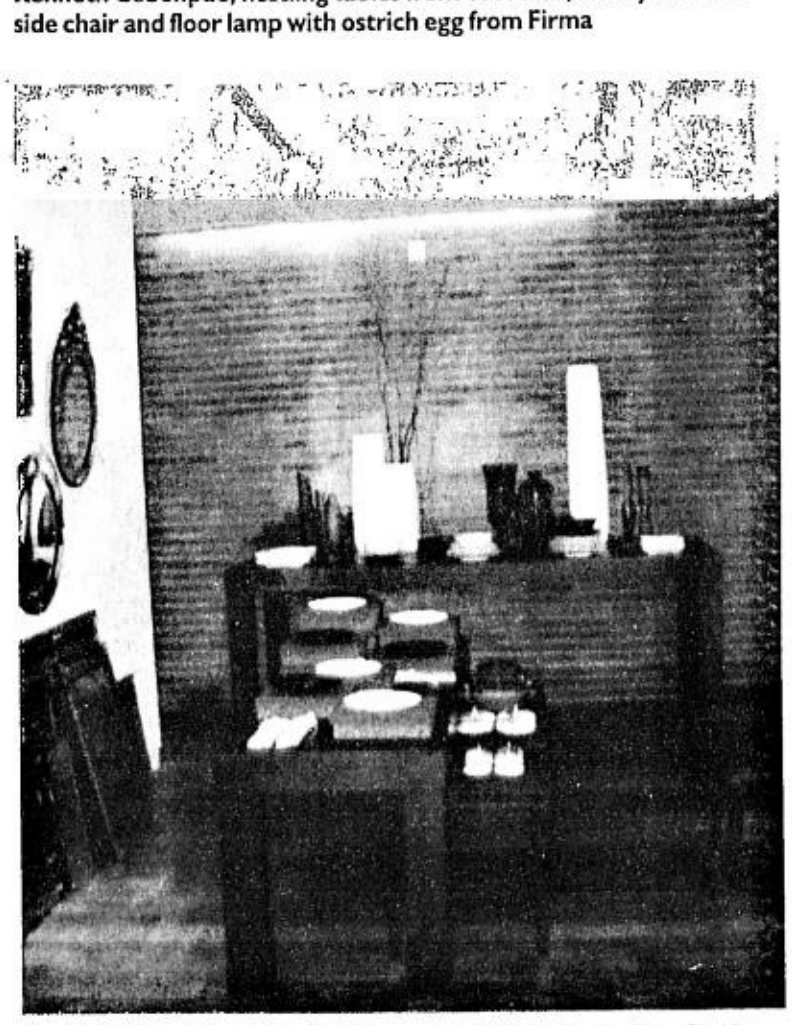
That just about covers it for Magazine.

Magazine is at 410 Wukang Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai; tel. +8621-6431-9971

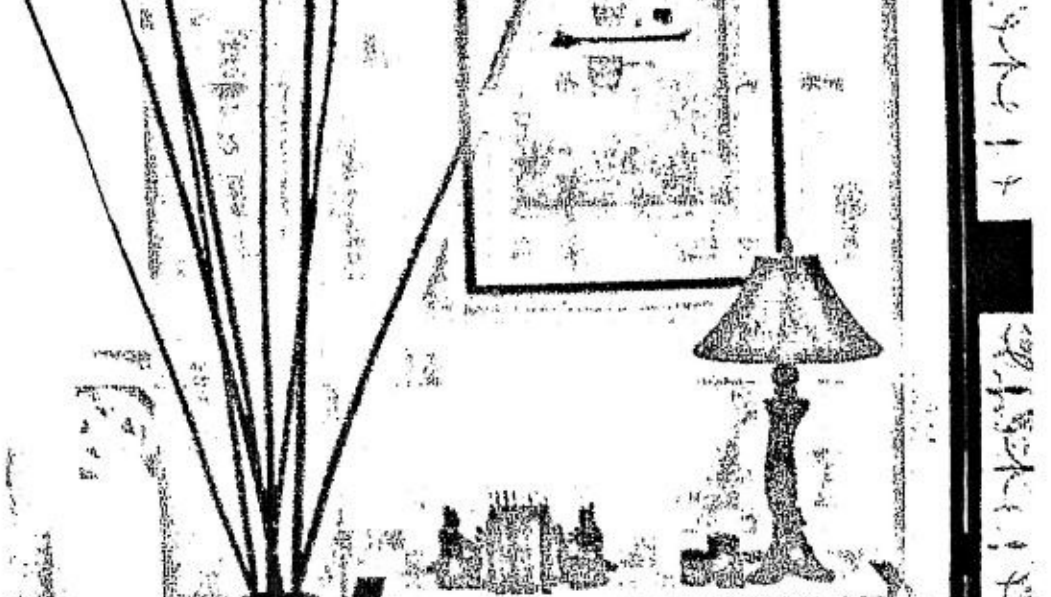
CZECH cubist-inspired rattan loveseat, lounge chair and table from Casa Caña, sugarcane tray by Jamaica, rattan side table from Castilex, multi-purpose box from Serviette; Havana armchair by Kenneth Cobonpue, nestling tables from TN Phils.; Gabby Barredo side chair and floor lamp with ostrich egg from Firma



CARLSON Chan and uncle Ben



VENETIAN mirrors from Christerland, fiberglass vases from Design Alchemy, side tables with banana stalk lamination by Castilex



BAGS from Martinique in abaca, *sabutan, buntal,* bamboo material in the spring and summer (in the winter, leather dominates), Shanghai souvenir shirts by Bench, Kawayan dining table and Lolita side chair by Kenneth Cobonpue, Suzy Wong cabinet and quadro console table by Cobonpue; table lamp with ostrich egg from Firma

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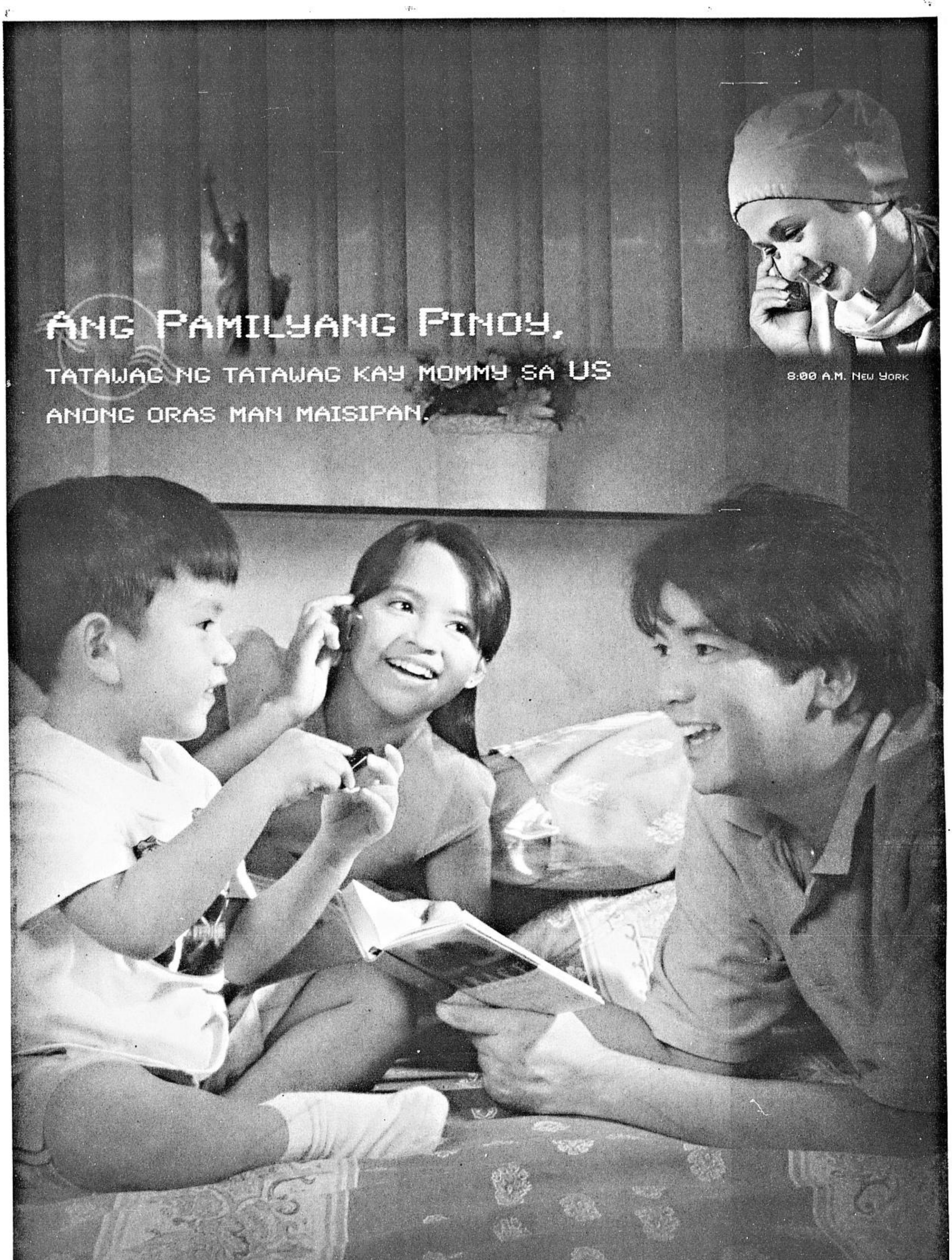

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Minimum of 40	PhP 40
Minimum of 50	PhP 50
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0034, Series of 2004

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LIFESTYLE

DELIGHT her with graceful red embroidered flowers embedded on a soft and tender opalescent leather strap presented in a glass vase as the Swatch Motherly watch.

HELLO Kitty Quilted bag collection—shoulder bag, mini bagette and hand bag. Cute is definitely for Mom this Mother's Day.

EASTWOOD CITY Your All Day Fun Place

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Only the best for Mom

From flowers to jewelry and scents, Mother's Day gifts are lovely and creative

LOVING, dependable, caring, thoughtful and sweet are just some of the words often used to describe mom. But mom is also amazing and simply wow!

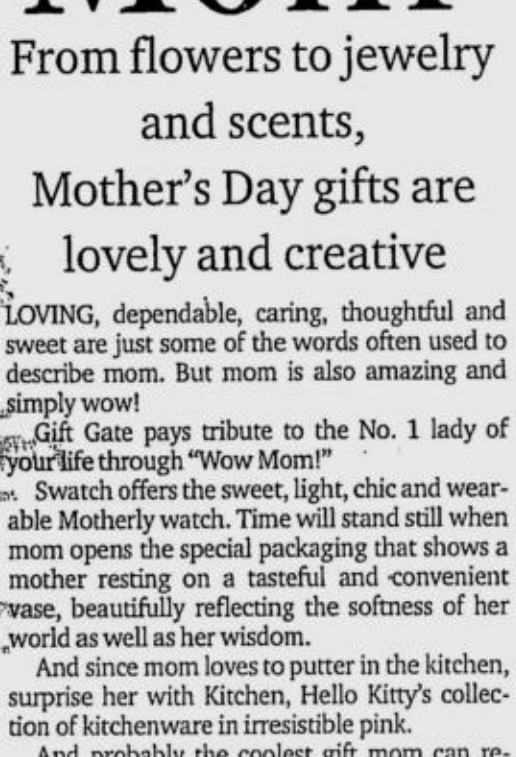
Gift Gate pays tribute to the No. 1 lady of your life through "Wow Mom!"

Swatch offers the sweet, light, chic and wearable Motherly watch. Time will stand still when mom opens the special packaging that shows a mother resting on a tasteful and convenient vase, beautifully reflecting the softness of her world as well as her wisdom.

And since mom loves to putter in the kitchen, surprise her with Kitchen, Hello Kitty's collection of kitchenware in irresistible pink.

And probably the coolest gift mom can receive this season is Hello Kitty's latest Quilted bag collection, which comes in shiny baby pink fabric designed with all things cute and accented with glitter.

Gift Gate Inc. exclusively distributes Swatch and Hello Kitty. Swatch and Hello Kitty are available at all Gift Gate Stores nationwide.



BAKING with Hello Kitty kitchen accessories puts the fun in everything mom won't mind whipping up for the kids.

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Fashion an extraordinary bond.

[1] Mothers and daughters are truly inseparable, especially when discovering romantic styles at Rustan's. Mom sparkles in an evening dress by Elie Tahari, jewelry by Rustan's Silver Vault and timepiece by Cartier. The young daughter takes after her mother in Rustanette with jewelry by Rustan's Silver Vault.

Rustan's

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LIFESTYLE

For feedba text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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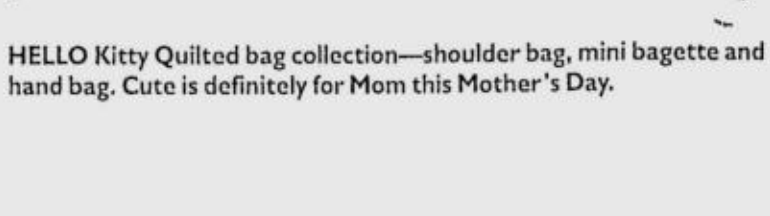

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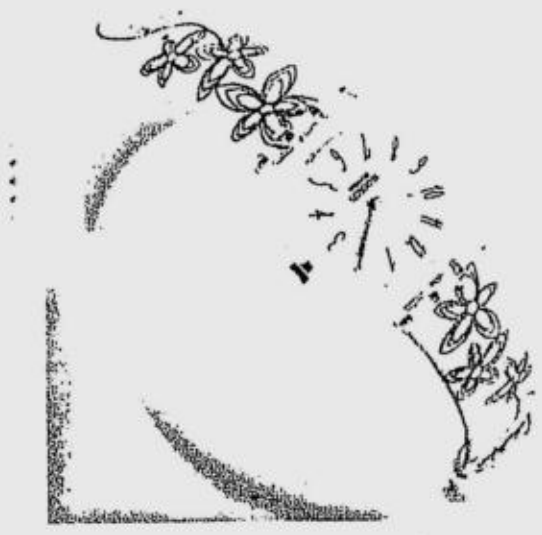

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Stylehaus: new wa
Show Biz: Mari
Resid: Shangri-la Plaza Mal

Rustan's

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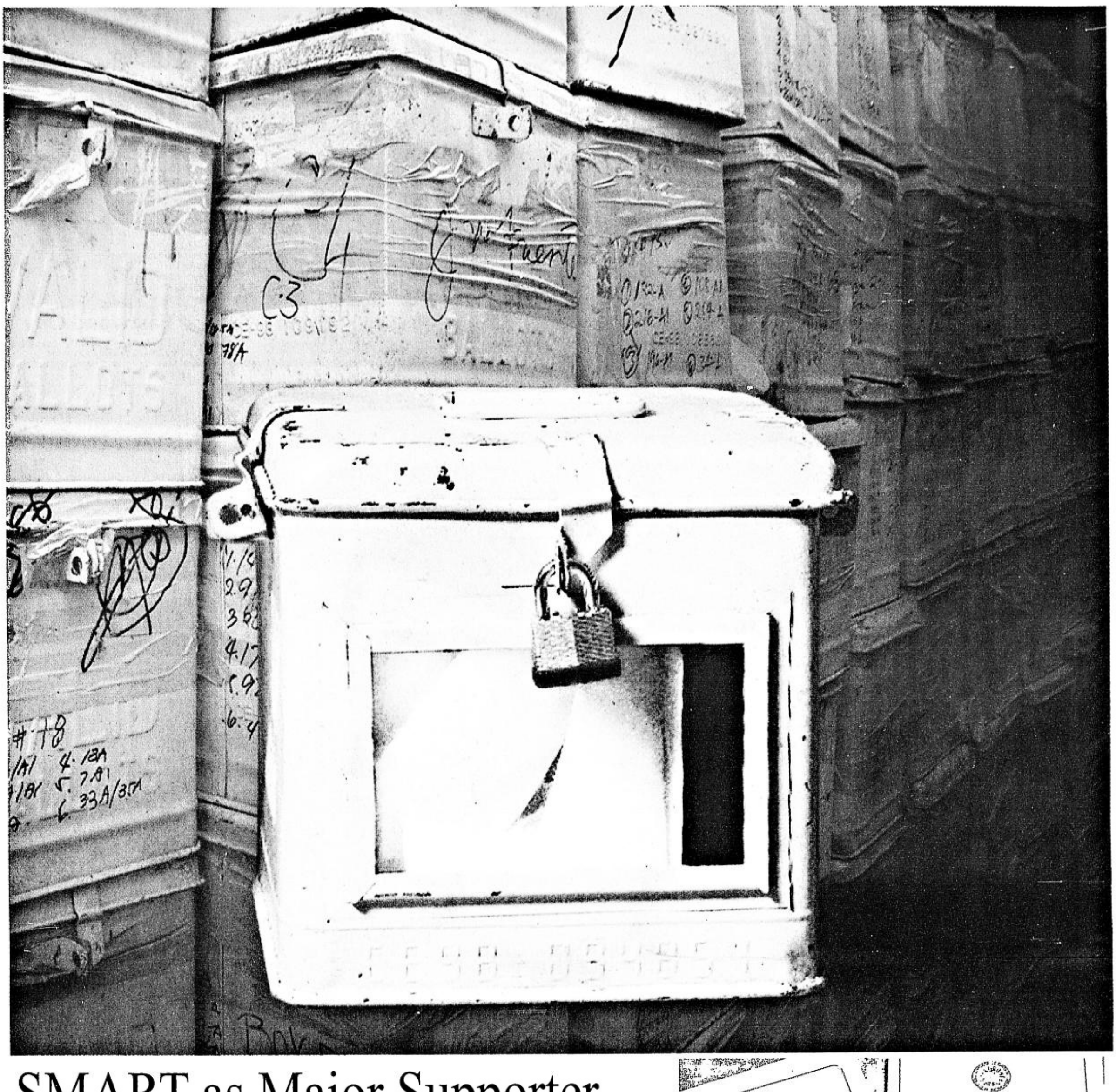
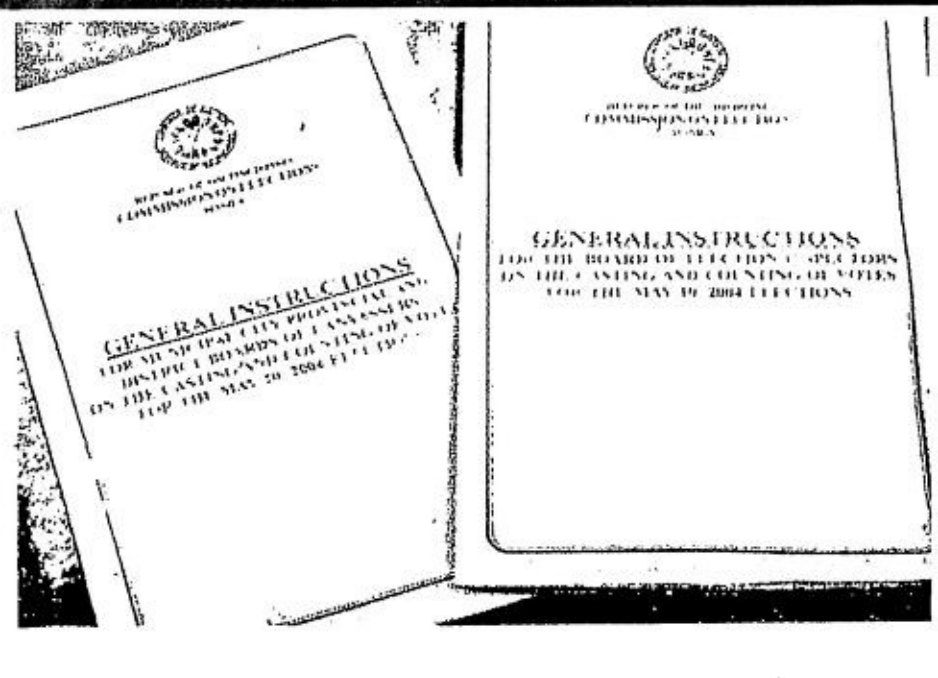


SMART as Major Supporter of the Philippine Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV)



With the elections upon us, it important for the platforms of all presidential candidates to be exposed. Without each candidates commitment and stand on the issues, there is no intelligent decision to be made. The Philippine Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), with the backing of SMART Communications Inc., endeavors to make each vote cast an informed one. PPCRV has done this through arranged television debates with the different presidential candidates, so each vote cast, and each opinion formed is based upon the real stand of the candidates. To help educate voters, PPCRV with the support of SMART Communications has launched a TV ad campaign through its Voters Education Program (VOT-ED). PPCRV advocates responsible citizenship through conscience, and does not vocally support any political party or candidate.

With so much intrigue and finger-pointing our elections are known to have, PPCRV has proposed a document to be endorsed by all candidates as a contractual promise for clean and safe elections through its Political Affairs program (POL-FAIR). Peace and order are priorities of PPCRV, and are crucial for stability of the country, and most of all, the welfare of the people.

The Ten Commandments for Responsible Voting

1. Thou shall vote according to the dictates of your conscience.
2. Thou shall respect the decision of other in choosing their candidates.
3. Thou shall seek to know the moral integrity, capabilities and the other personal qualities of the candidates you will vote for.
4. Thou shall strive to understand the issues, platform and programs of candidates and political parties seeking your vote.
5. Thou shall not sell you vote.
6. Thou shall not vote for the candidate using GUNS, GOONS, and GOLD.
7. Though shall not vote for candidates with records of graft and corruption.
8. Though shall not vote for candidates just because of "utang na loob", popularity or pakikisama.
9. Thou shall not vote for a candidate living an immoral life.
10. Thou shall put the welfare of the country above all else in choosing the candidate you will vote for.

It's not just the number of votes cast...

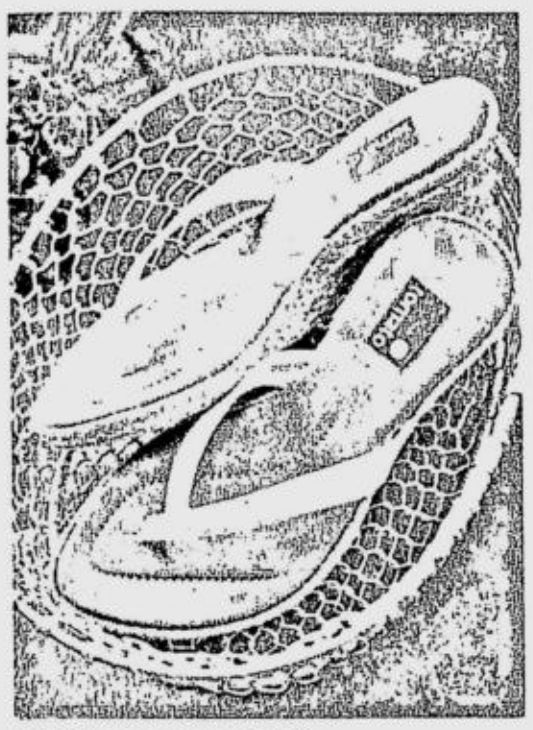
It's about democracy in action.

Good enough to eat

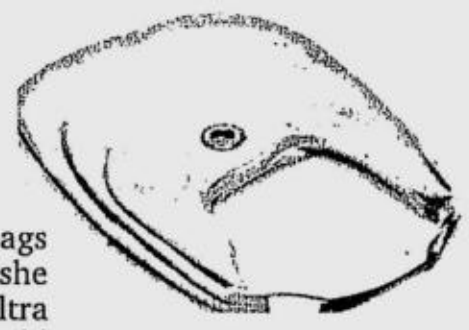
A WORLD of fun and color. Lapagayo woven skirt (P1,198), camisole (P598), taslon jacket (P2,298). Accessories by Tomato: wedge sandal (P798) and Penny bag (P698)

PICK Mom some chic Tomato bags to brighten up whatever outfit she is wearing. A fiery red bag or ultra chic Patricia bag will surely add pizzazz to her clothes. For her special dinner with Dad, give her some "sole" help, like a colorful wedge that is a throwback to the '70s.

Check out Tomato goodies at its shops at SM Manila and all Lapagayo outlets.



APPLE green wedge (P798)



PATRICIA bag (P698)

BAGS with attitude: Chloe bag (P798) and Pauline, a belted leather bag in white, black and beige (P698)

Gifts as special as Mom

RUSTAN'S Pink and White Collection

HONOR your mom this Mother's Day with a gift as special as she is from The Rustan's Flower Shop's Pink and White Collection.

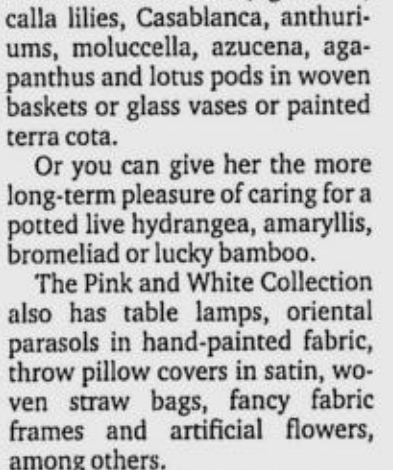
In-store artists can create a variety of unique flower arrangements of fresh roses, gerberas, calla lilies, Casablanca, anthuriums, moluccella, azucena, agapanthus and lotus pods in woven baskets or glass vases or painted terra cota.

Or you can give her the more long-term pleasure of caring for a potted live hydrangea, amaryllis, bromeliad or lucky bamboo.

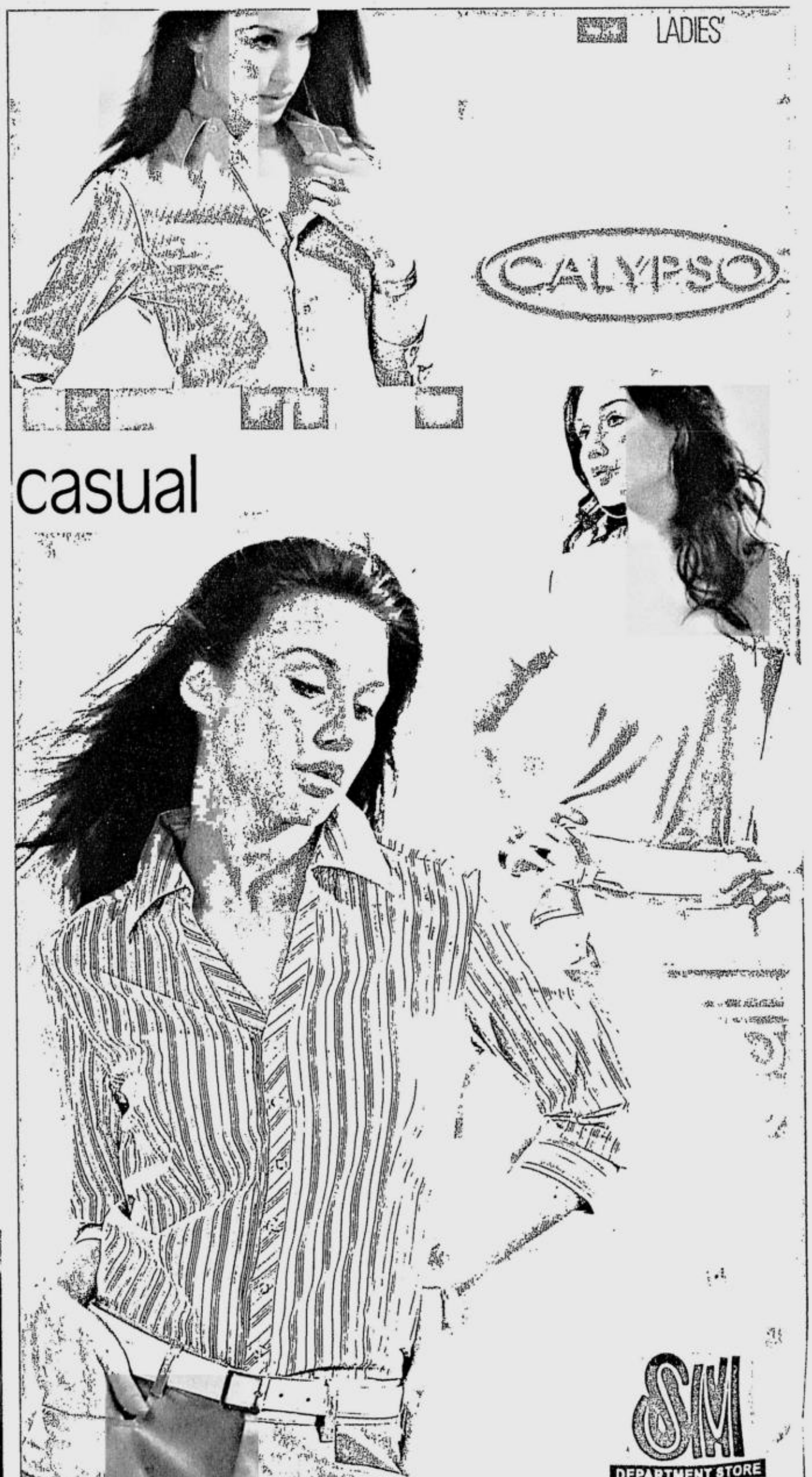
The Pink and White Collection also has table lamps, oriental parasols in hand-painted fabric, throw pillow covers in satin, woven straw bags, fancy fabric frames and artificial flowers, among others.

The Rustan's Flower Shop offers Mother's Day Cakes and the Cookie Garden, an edible flower arrangement.

The store delivers within Metro Manila and has branches in Rustan's Department Store in Makati and Shangri-La Plaza, Rustan's Supermarket in Makati, Rockwell, Harrison Plaza, Shangri-La Plaza, Rustan's Expresslane in Magallanes, San Antonio Forbes Park, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Alabang Village and Katipunan, Corte de Las Palmas Alabang Town Center, St. Luke's Medical Center and the Asian Hospital and Medical Center.

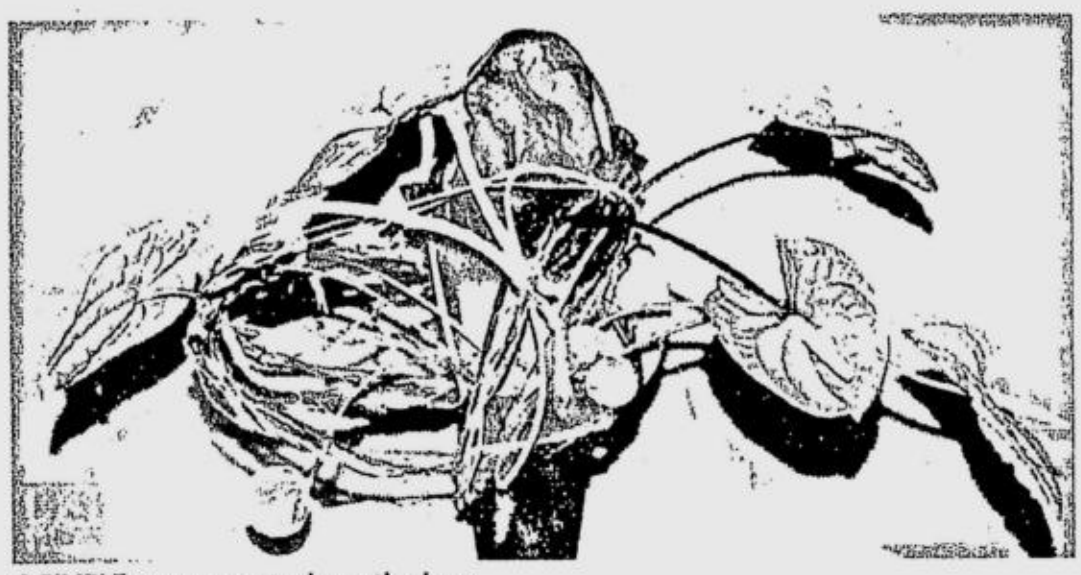


THE PINK and White Collection also has scented candles and fancy fabric frames for Moms.



Roses aren't the only flowers of love

ANTHURIUMS are easy to blend with other flowers.



A SIMPLE arrangement using anthuriums

THIS Mother's Day, don't just think of roses and orchids when giving flowers to Mom.

The anthurium, with its heart shape and warm colors, may be just as good in expressing your love.

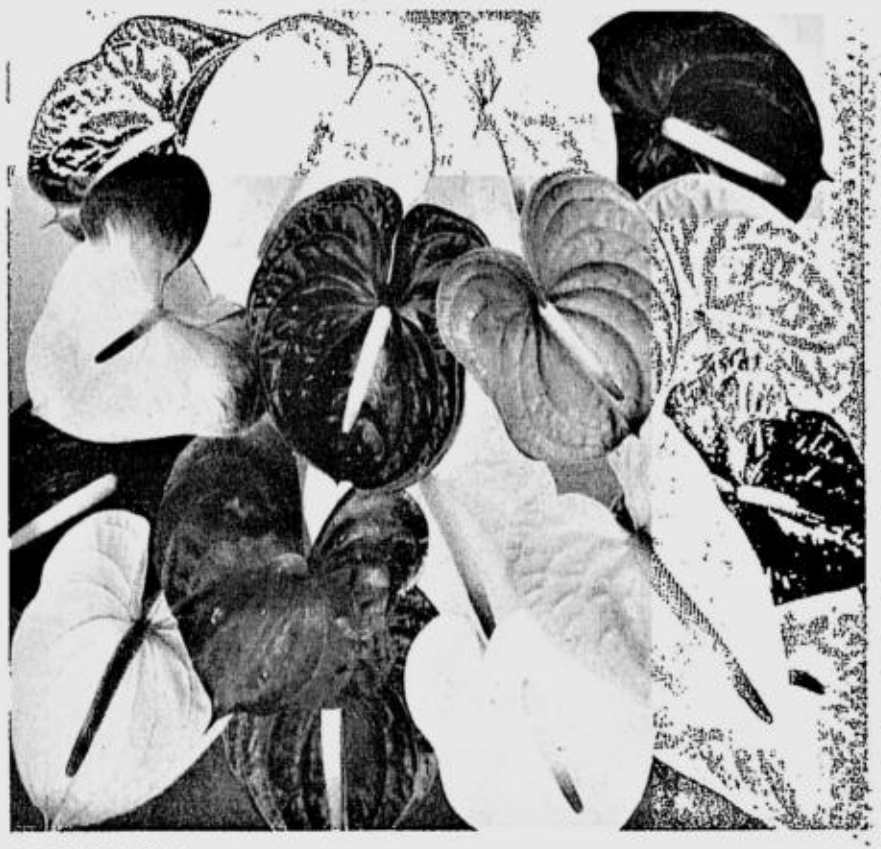
Agrikultura Pilipina Inc., the country's biggest grower of anthuriums, produces flowers in bold and pastel hues—all-white Camilla, Lilia, Concha and Antonina; peach Ginia and Feliza; greenish Champagne and Linda del Mol; and reddish Victoria, Tropical, Sofia and Saria.

Anthuriums can also be included in arrangements with other flowers and they have a vase life of two to three weeks.

Agrikultura's anthuriums are imported from Holland and flown directly to the farm at the foot of Mt. Malarayat, Barangay Tipakan, Lipa City.

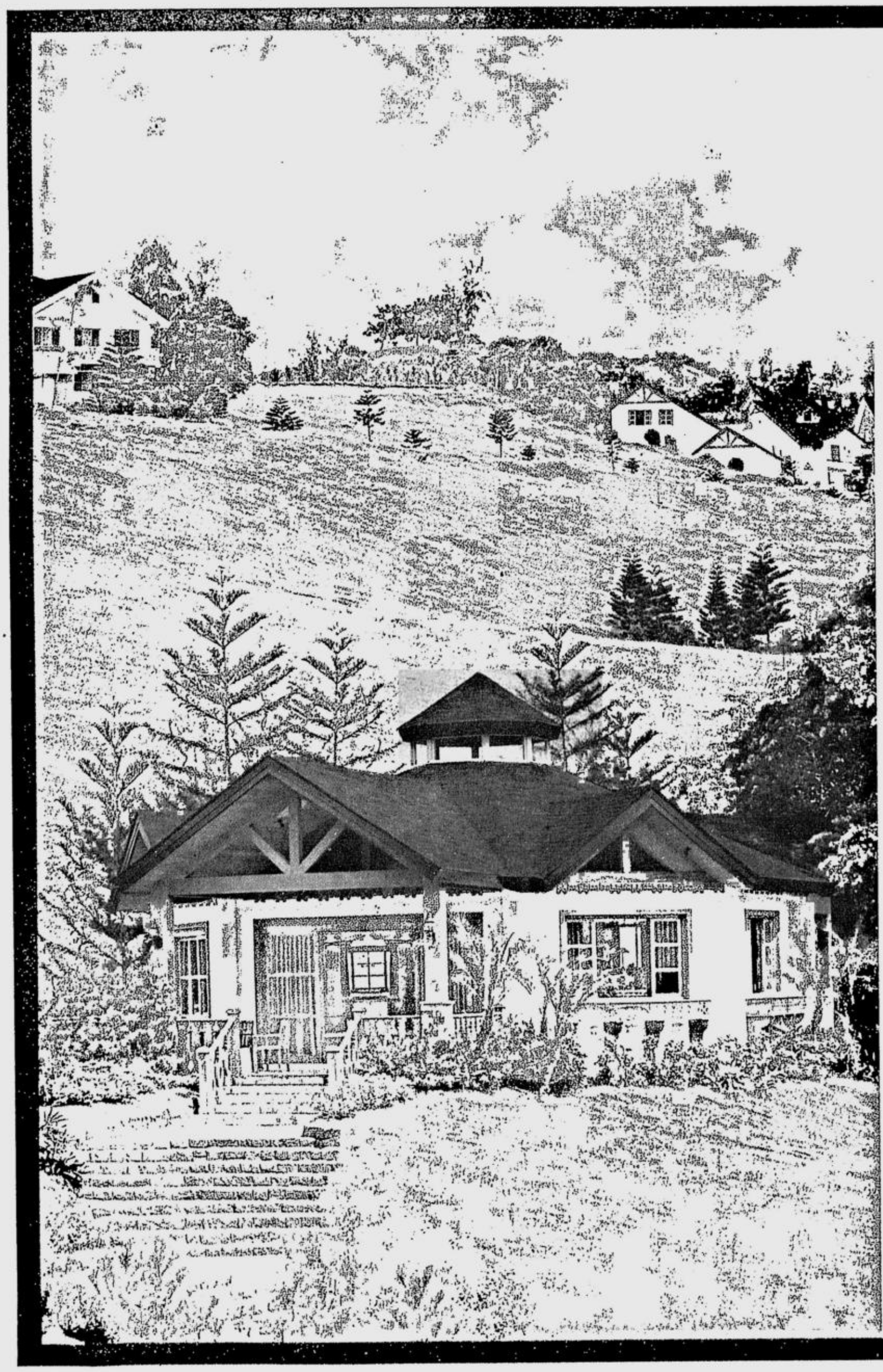
Agrikultura operations manager Nicon Cimeni says, for longer vase life, replace water in the vase regularly. Cut the rotten portions diagonally before returning them into the vase. Do not expose the blooms to direct sunlight.

Agrikultura Pilipina anthuriums are available at 1605 Laong Laan St., Sampaloc, Manila, tel. 7411000 and 7416967; and at Holland Blooms, Unit 103 Amberland Plaza, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig, tel. 6384647 and 6384648.



AGRIKULTURA Pilipina produces a variety of anthuriums with different colors in bold and pastel hues.

UNLIKE other flowers, anthuriums have a vase life of two to three weeks.



HOME SWISS HOME

At Crosswinds, you could have your very own little piece of Switzerland, whether it's land for a future home or a chalet you can live in right away.

The homes combine Swiss-inspired wood patterns, wide porches and overhanging eaves. The interiors feature a wide open space, perfect for family gatherings.

And the homes are set against gentle, rolling hills, surrounded by pine trees under a calm, quiet ambience.

It's a great life at Crosswinds–your home Swiss home.

To know more about **Crosswinds, Tagaytay**, call us at **850 6986** and **850 2868** or email us at **mktg@brittany.com.ph**. Or come over to Crosswinds and see what the Swiss life is all about.

CROSSWINDS
Life is great

Brittany
CORPORATION

From beauty queen to makeup maven

ABBYGALE Arenas and hairdresser Lourd Ramos doll up model Phoemela Baranda.

BETTY BOOP. The look was the rage in the 1920s. To achieve it, Arenas uses pale foundation, smudged eyeliner, and matte red lipstick to shape the lips like a heart. The eyebrows are rounded. False eyelashes are "beaded" using eyelash glue and black liquid

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Pancho Escaler

ABBYGALE Arenas seems to know makeup in the same way a seasoned cardiologist knows every muscle and artery of the heart.

She describes the intricacies of makeup with textbook precision. It sounds almost, well, staid and colorless, but a lackluster makeup artist she's certainly not! Just check out the five different looks she came up with for Lifestyle on this page.

Making others beautiful

After years of being dolled up by some of the country's leading stylists and makeup artists, the former model and beauty queen has turned to pampering and beautifying others.

To prepare for her new role, the one-time Avon image consultant recently took up a month-long course at the prestigious Studio Makeup Academy in Hollywood.

Apart from giving the finer points of applying "beauty makeup" (as opposed to prosthetics) that spans several decades and looks, the course introduced Arenas to such oft-overlooked basics as lighting and proper use of tools and accessories other than brushes, tweezers and sponges.

Choosing the right makeup bags and investing on a portable dresser with lit mirrors not only make the job easier, she says, but also impress clients. They also keep fragile and expensive makeup, like eye shadows and cake foundations, from breaking.

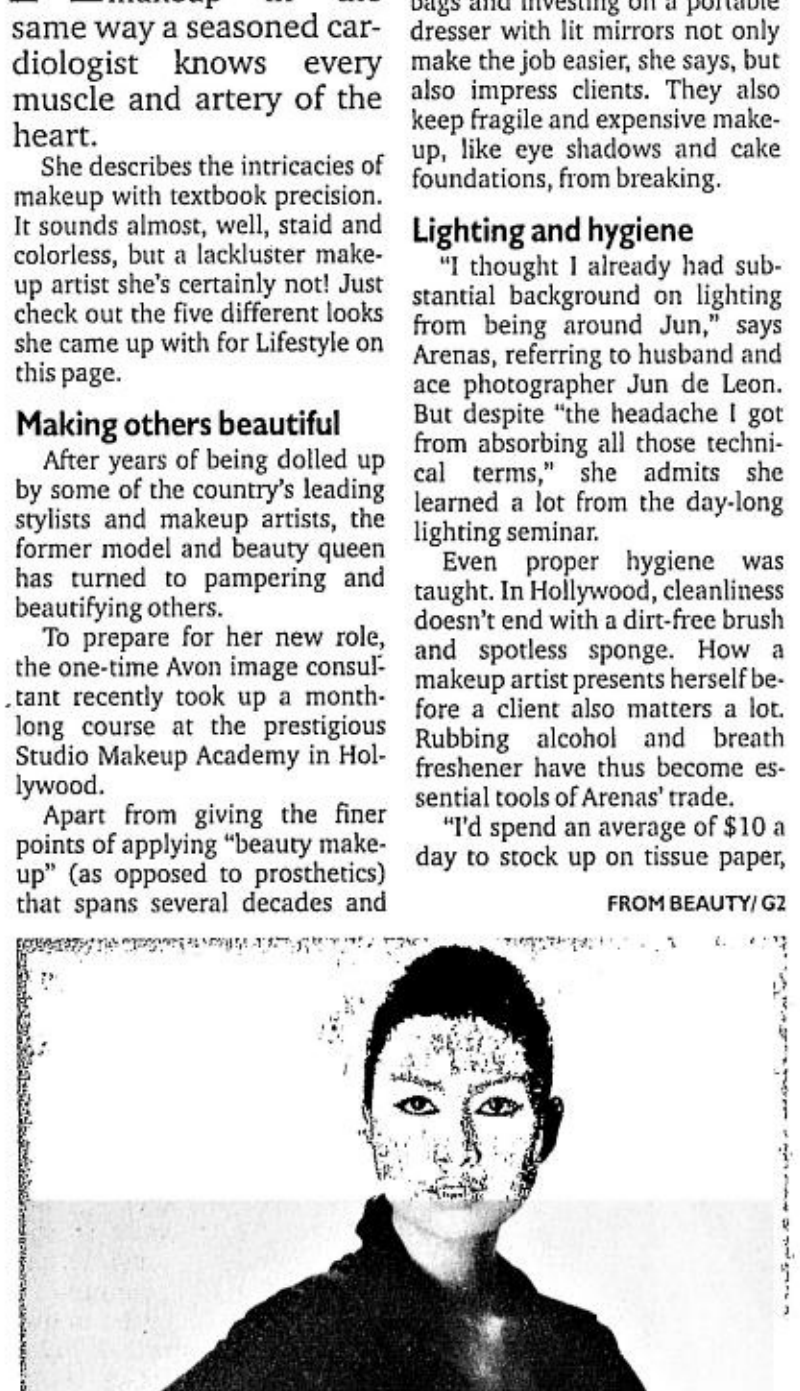
Lighting and hygiene

"I thought I already had substantial background on lighting from being around Jun," says Arenas, referring to husband and ace photographer Jun de Leon. But despite "the headache I got from absorbing all those technical terms," she admits she learned a lot from the day-long lighting seminar.

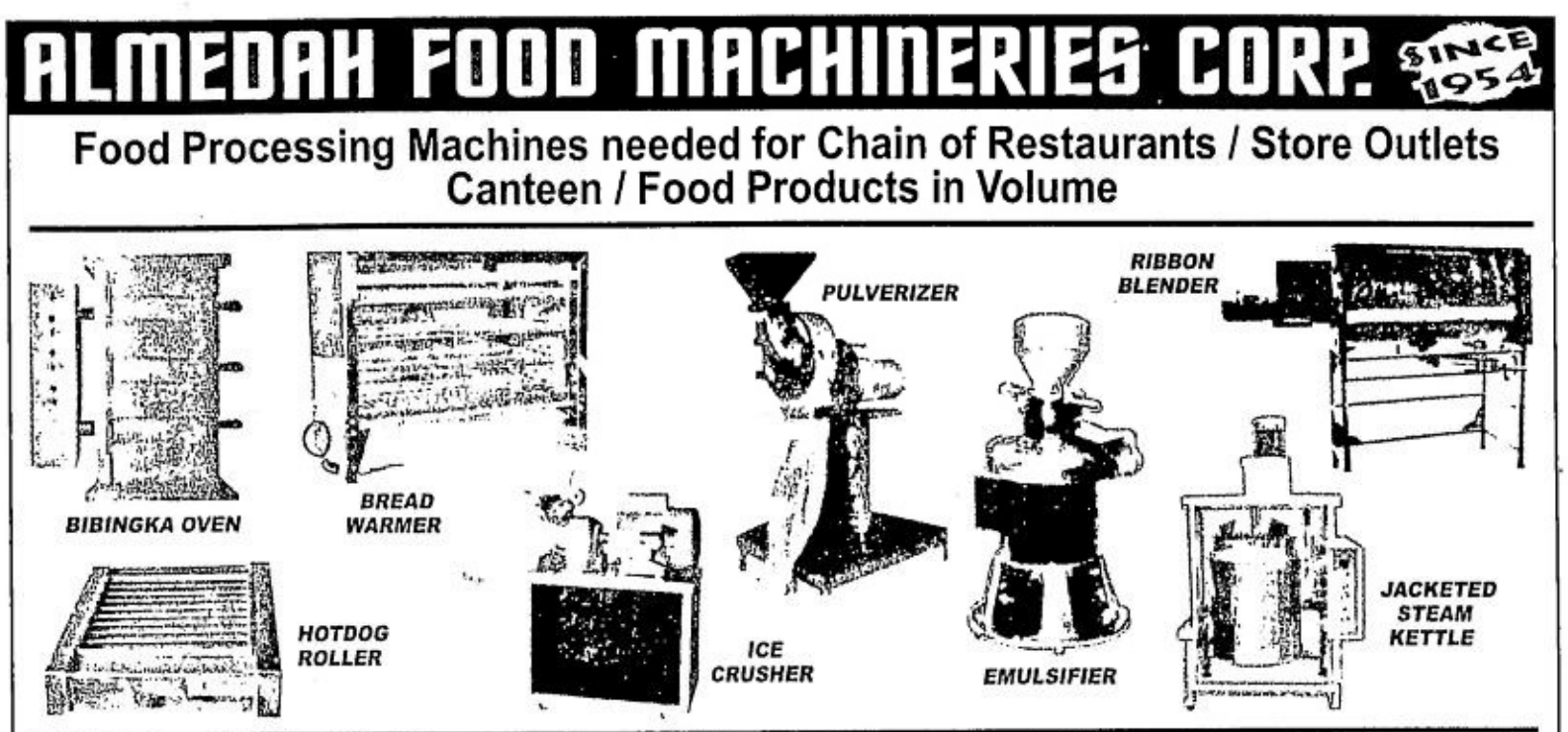
Even proper hygiene was taught. In Hollywood, cleanliness doesn't end with a dirt-free brush and spotless sponge. How a makeup artist presents herself before a client also matters a lot. Rubbing alcohol and breath freshener have thus become essential tools of Arenas' trade.

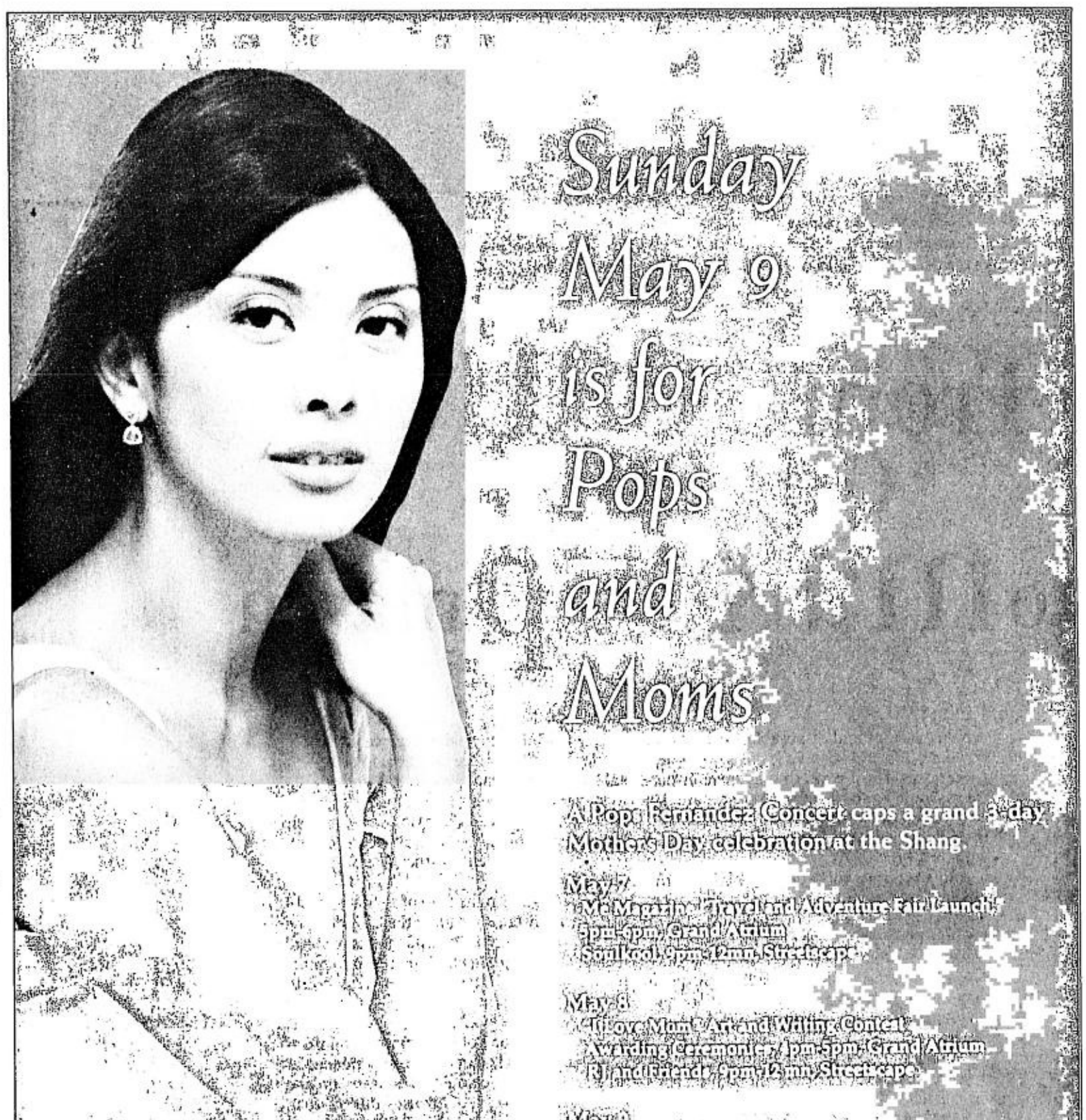
"I'd spend an average of $10 a day to stock up on tissue paper,

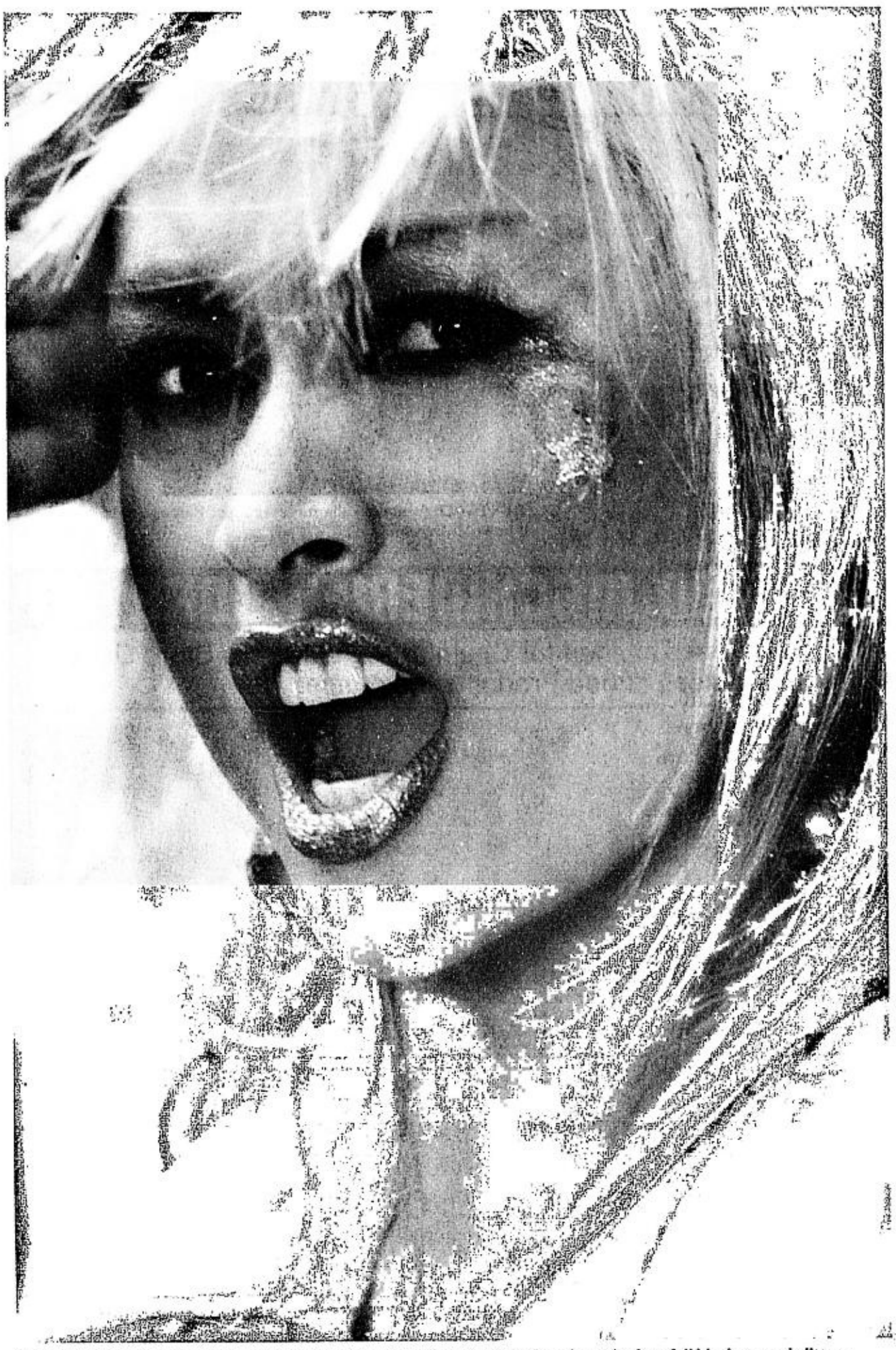
FROM BEAUTY/ G2



JENNY FROM THE BLOCK. The face of the new millennium is inspired by elements from past decades. For the J.Lo look, Arenas uses bronzy foundation, prominent eyeliner, crisscross false eyelashes and glossy nude lipstick.







VINTAGE COOL. Arenas uses several shades of browns and highlights to achieve a black-and-white image inspired by Marlene Dietrich. She avoids reddish makeup, she says, as it tends to look grayish in black-and-white photos.

SHE BOPS. Cyndi Lauper comes alive in a multicolored wig, eight shades of eye shadow, full blush-on and glittery lipstick. Like the decade's fashion, makeup in the 1980s was over the top.

From beauty queen to makeup maven

The former canvas of cosmetic artists, Abbygale Arenas takes on the job herself and finds a new career making faces

From page G1

rubbing alcohol and disposable stuff such as powder puffs and sponges," she says. "Their [Americans] No. 1 concern is hygiene. Everything should be sterilized or at least spotlessly clean. Even the mascara wands are supposed to be disposable. It's a no-no to come to class with dirty brushes."

And since the world of fashion and show biz has more than its fair share of big egos, Arenas was also taught how to deal with people and make them not only look good but feel good as well.

Maintaining a low profile by dressing down may be difficult for a former top model and Bb. Pilipinas-Universe, but Arenas is trying her best.

"We were told to look as inconspicuous as possible so as not to make the subject feel threatened," she says with a wink. "At first I thought it would be hard, but it was simply a matter of getting used to. After all, we're here to make other people shine."

A typical day at the academy included a series of lectures. Aside from discussing technicalities that went into each look, instructor Doreen Myers, a veteran makeup artist, also tackled the history behind each trend.

There were no practical exams or grades to hurdle, but Myers videotaped each of her student's work, which she then later dissected in class.

"We learned from each other's mistakes as Doreen pointed out the pluses and minuses of our respective works," says Arenas.

Of course, Arenas is no greenhorn when it comes to makeup, but she felt she had to start afresh to become a more effective cosmetic artist.

"If there's one thing I learned, makeup isn't easy," she says. "Makeup can be very complicated, but it can be fun. The experience opened my eyes to countless possibilities. I learned so much in a month."

Crash course

Her initiation to makeup came at the tender age of 17 (quite late, actually, considering how vain most of today's teenagers are) when seasoned makeup artist Jinky Ilusorio gave her a crash course on basic makeup and grooming the day before she left for the Supermodel of the World contest abroad.

"Jinky did the right side of my face, and I tried to duplicate it by doing the left side," she recalls. "He even got the exact items we used from his makeup bag and put them into mine. I was touched. I'll be forever grateful to Jinky."

That was in 1992. As she toured various parts of Asia as one of the country's top mannequins, Arenas became more experienced at putting on facial color. Makeup artists, she says, were considered luxuries during such trips.

But her concept of what was supposed to be beautiful suddenly took a 360-degree turn when she joined and won Bb. Pilipinas in 1997.

One-line eyebrows, which were quite "in" during that time, had to give way to a bushy pair. Arenas chucked her favorite matte burgundy lipstick in favor of a glossy pink one. She also learned the art of illusion by trying on various hairpieces.

"I learned to do my face in a totally different way," she says, "and this helped me a lot during the [Miss Universe] contest. I never let trainees touch my face since I came to every event with my makeup on."

Upon returning home from the pageant where she landed a spot shy of the top 10 finalists, she parlayed her newfound fame into a new career as Avon's image model.

Part of the job included conducting sessions on personality development. It was only a matter of time before she ventured into conducting grooming and corporate makeup seminars.

The hour-long session soon extended to eight hours. Arenas enjoyed the stint so much that even after her marriage to De Leon, she pursued image consultancy by taking up a short course in the United States. Upon her return, she set up her own image consultancy firm with a partner.

While on a Southeast Asian cruise with her husband last September, however, Arenas experienced an epiphany.

After years of wearing the corporate look—staid business wear, brushed-up hair, pearl earrings—she was suddenly in the mood for letting her hair down and wearing the funkiest drop earrings without a care in the world.

Going back to college was out of the question for her as, she says, "I have a growing son to attend to."

Since her world revolved around fashion, Arenas decided, with her husband's encouragement, to pursue fashion makeup full time.

After the cruise, she and her partner agreed to dissolve their image consultancy business. By February, she was off to Los Angeles to embark on another quest.

Now Arenas has more textures and colors on her makeup palette to work with and share with the rest of the fashion world.

Abbygale Arenas is a freelance makeup artist and beauty consultant for Emphasis Salon (Rockwell). Call her at 8980818/19.

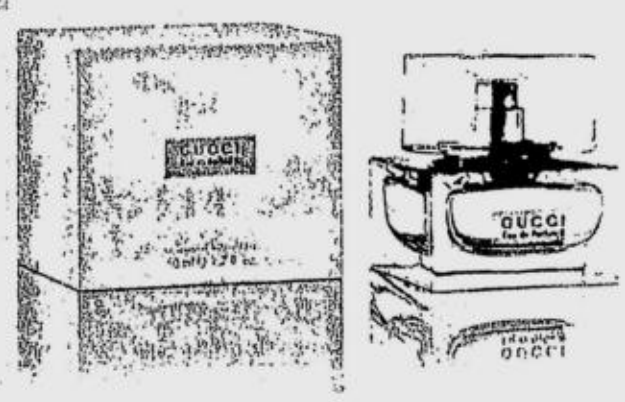
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

SEVEN-YEAR ITCH. "Marilyn Monroe," in Eric Pineda's electric-pleated white halter dress, has lined, dreamy eyes, full red lips and a natural-looking fake mole.

MAKEUP ABBYGALE ARENAS
HAIR LOURD RAMOS AND TINTIN LOPEZ OF EMPHASIS SALON
STYLING MILLET ARZAGA
MODEL PHOEMELA BARANDA

Message in a bottle

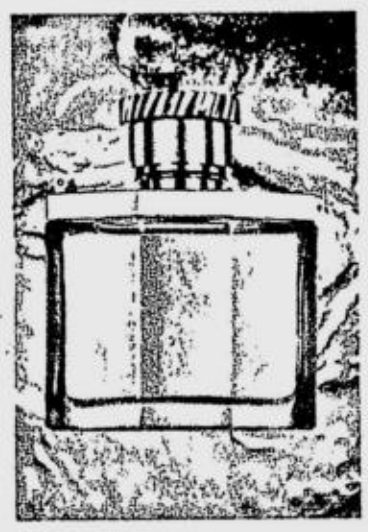
Scents can convey love for Mom



GUCCI Eau de Parfum II weaves precious raw materials into a simple script. A musk mix of fresh jasmine, heliotrope and cedar wood conveys sophistication and refinement. A fusion of violet and blackberry brings sensuality to the composition. Mandarin, bitter orange and blackcurrant deliver natural radiance and sparkle.

Gucci Eau de Parfum II is available at all leading department stores nationwide and exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp.

PAUL Smith Women is a floral fragrance made vivid with top notes of clementine, black currant, green pear and pink peppercorns. Heart notes of freesia, lily of the valley, geranium and green tea as well as base notes of cedar wood, vetiver, patchouli and musk complete the feel of an English garden with a twist.



DRIFT into a dream with Desire Blue by Alfred Dunhill Fragrances. Notes of bergamot and orange flower water whisk you away with sparkling freshness while amber crystals, musk and tonka beans deepen its scent.

CAROLINA Herrera introduces Carolina Eau de Toilette. Made for the modern woman, it's a balanced mixture of nature's assets. Freshly picked from wood, amber, musk, flower petals, fruits, bitter orange and pepper, this fragrance leaves a feeling of anticipation, surprise, passion and emotion.

Best scents. . .

From page G4

at P3,000 per 3 oz. that lasts for a good four to five months. Use it on face and neck.

Alpha Lipoic is the ultimate antioxidant that is both water- and oil-soluble. It increases the glutathione levels in our body which removes toxins and gives a lighter-skin side effect. It also contains AHA for exfoliation, grapeseed as another antioxidant for skin hydration and Coenzyme Q10 for firming. It works best when used during daytime under makeup or as day moisturizer.

The results on my skin: firmness, smaller pores, no more fine lines and rosy cheeks without obvious peeling. Warning: Dryer skin folks may need extra

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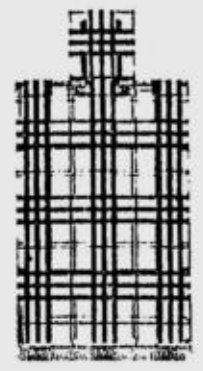


BURBERRY Brit

CHRIS 1947 by Christian Dior

HALLOWEEN

Best scents for best moms

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

MAY is Mother's Month! After everything our moms have done for us, they deserve well-thought-of presents. We have the habit of last-minute gift shopping so we end up settling for something generic. She deserves much more.

My personal policy is never mind how late I give the gift as long as it is something she really wants or needs.

If scent be mama's fetish: The fragrance for spring/summer collection 2004 (from March to August) calls for something lighter than the all-out glamour of holiday fragrances. Let's see what will appeal to her.

Vanilla-sweet. Picking a scent along this line could be a challenge as vanilla is too strong to get away with this summer. Go vanilla light with Clinique's Simply, which has soy milk and toasted soy seeds, and smells all creamy like a newly nursed baby; and Burberry Brit, which smells like sugary almonds with vanilla.

Try also L'Occitane Eau de Miel (honey with floral notes), an alcohol-free scent that was originally designed to counteract the smell kids get after being under the sun too long. It is perfect for our weather.

The Spanish scents. I love discovering obscure scents because one of my pet peeves is generic smell. The Spanish scents have specialized in smelling clean and fresh no matter the undertone. What I love about them is that you can spray them often throughout the day as a refresher without gagging the people beside you. Angel Schlesser Femme smells like assorted oranges as it contains mandarin (sweet orange), bergamot (bitter orange) and neroli (orange blossoms). On Ella by J. del Pozzo is a mix of rose, vetiver and mandarin that is reminiscent of someone who just stepped out of the shower. Halloween is perfect for casual days—think of those light Japanese scents that smell like mimosa, gardenia, lime blossom and lavender.

Fruity scents. So refreshing and yummy that they will appeal to moms. Escada Island Kiss smells like berry juice with touches of guava and mango. Paul Smith Extreme for women has Italian Mandarin and black currant essence.

Citrus. This is a classic summer scent as it doesn't overpower the sense of smell and refreshing at the same time. I would recommend Escada's L'Hadrian, which is a citrus overload that will satisfy fanatics. I so smelled lemon, orange and grapefruit that I had to restrain myself from chomping the bottle.

Floral. Some moms want sophistication and won't settle for anything else. I gave my mom Michael Kors and she is crazy about it. The combination of tuberose (*dama de noche*), spices and sandalwood is not for the faint of heart. I am thinking of buying the leg shine and Glimmer Body Crème for myself. Chris 1947 by Christian Dior is a limited-edition sweet floral which appeals to women from 16 to 60. It wears great for day with the fruity floral blend which is great for summer.

Anti-aging serum

Just because it's summer and our skin is oily does not mean we have stopped aging. We are in search of an anti-aging formula that won't make the more mature (30 and up) oily-skinned people break out.

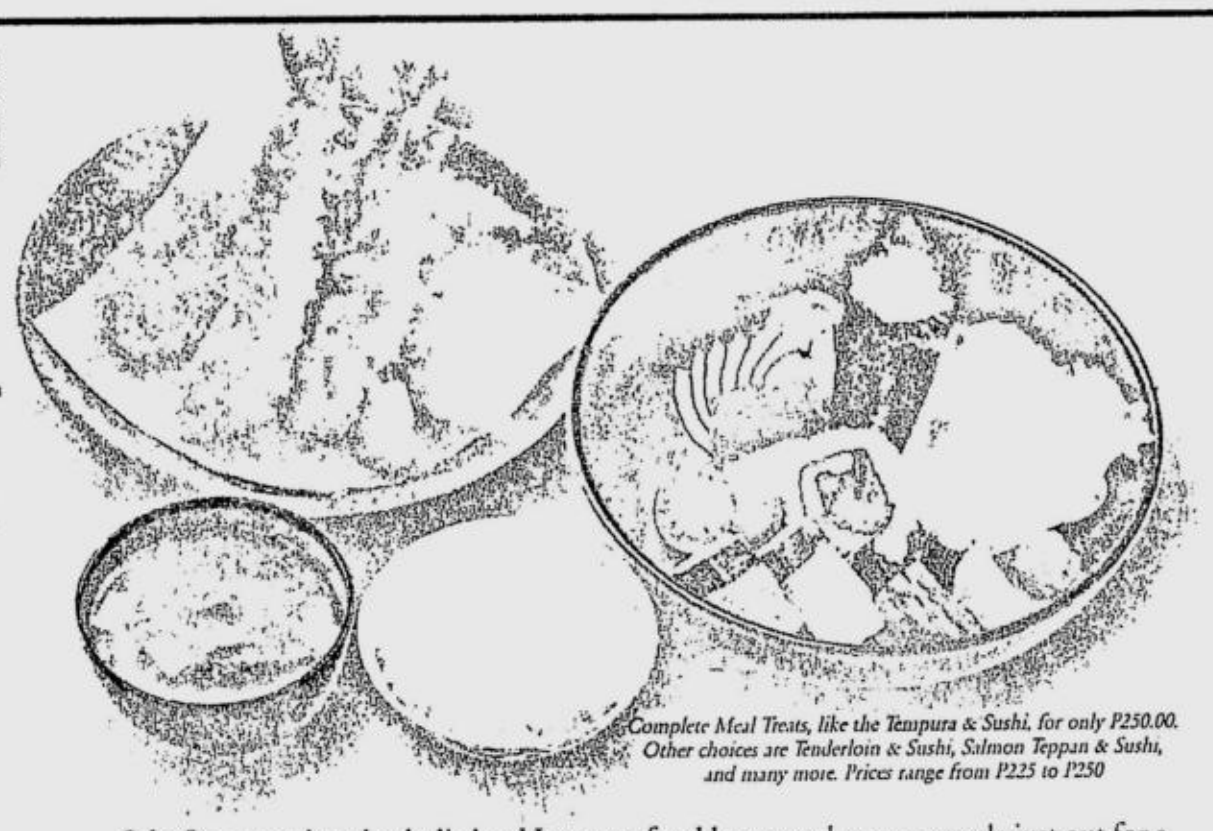
At Healthy Options in Glorietta 3, where they sell vitamins and health supplements, I found Skin Care Factors Day firming treatment with Alpha Lipoic Acid and Dmae serum

BEST/ G3

NOUVELLE JAPAN

Sake San

JAPANESE RESTAURANT & SAKE BAR

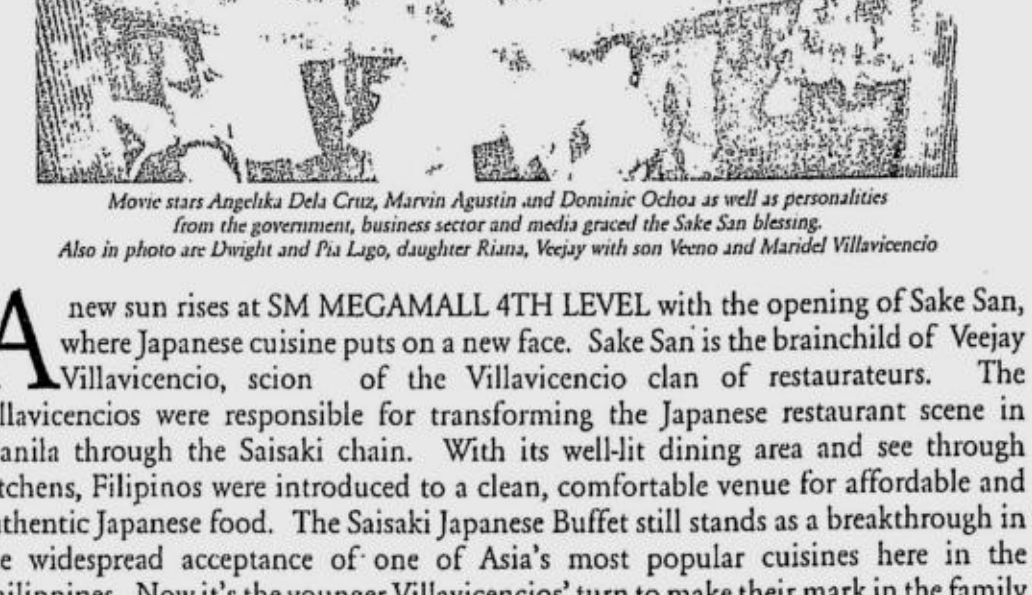


Complete Meal Treats, like the Tempura & Sushi, for only P250.00. Other choices are Tenderloin & Sushi, Salmon Teppan & Sushi, and many more. Prices range from P225 to P250

VERY NEW. VERY CLASSIC. VERY JAPANESE.

Movie stars Angelika Dela Cruz, Marvin Agustin and Dominic Ochoa as well as personalities from the government, business sector and media graced the Sake San blessing. Also in photo are Dwight and Pia Lago, daughter Riana, Veejay with son Veeno and Maridel Villavicencio

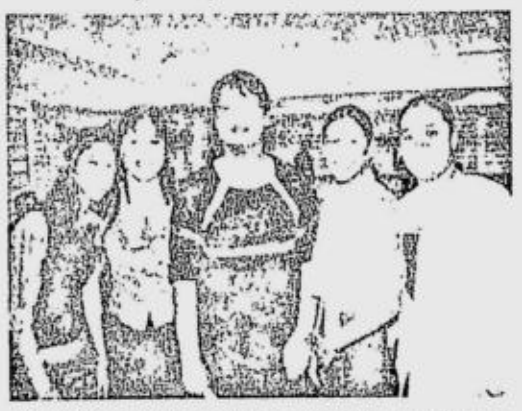
A new sun rises at SM MEGAMALL 4TH LEVEL with the opening of Sake San, where Japanese cuisine puts on a new face. Sake San is the brainchild of Veejay Villavicencio, scion of the Villavicencio clan of restaurateurs. The Villavicencios were responsible for transforming the Japanese restaurant scene in Manila through the Saisaki chain. With its well-lit dining area and see through kitchens, Filipinos were introduced to a clean, comfortable venue for affordable and authentic Japanese food. The Saisaki Japanese Buffet still stands as a breakthrough in the widespread acceptance of one of Asia's most popular cuisines here in the Philippines. Now it's the younger Villavicencios' turn to make their mark in the family business. While most Japanese restaurants in the metro are staffed by local chefs, the Sake San kitchen is under the direct supervision of Isao Takada, veteran master chef from Japan. Chef Takada has set out to impress a new generation of jaded diners with his cutting edge Japanese nouvelle cuisine, while less adventurous palates may take comfort in Sake San's extensive menu of popular all time Japanese favorites.



Sake San Sushi Special P300.00

Sake San Sashimi Special P255.00

Sake San appeals to both die-hard Japanese food-lovers and young people just out for a good time with its intimate and non-intimidating interiors done in dramatic red and black. Original art inspired by Kabuki and J-pop hangs on the resto's walls, giving it a quirky, fresh ambiance that sets it apart from other Asian themed restaurants. True to its name, this is one place where sake and the food fully satify. Very new, very classic, very Japanese, that's the Sake San dictum.



Vicky, Maridel, Veejay, Cara and Pia Villavicencio-Lago

While studying business in La Salle, Veejay often thought of putting his own restaurant. He envisioned the place as an alternative hangout where young urban professionals or burgeoning families can enjoy exciting and contemporary Japanese food without the prohibitive prices of upscale restaurants, but well above the quality found in fast-food outlets. With the support of wife Treena, sisters Pia, Cara, Mara, Vicky and brother Bokie, Veejay's vision was assured of a perfect realization. A successful restaurant is not just a family but a team effort as well, and Sake San's starting line-up included the best in the business, from the expert kitchen crew and the impeccably trained waitstaff to the brilliant marketing team. At the formal opening, the Villavicencio family forces were in full display, from the eldest daughter Pia Villavicencio Lago, along with her husband , former PBA cager Dwight and daughter Riana, the twins Mara and Cara, Bokie and Vicky. Stealing the show was Veejay's son, Veeno, who claimed his spot with the guests of honor during the ribbon cutting and blessing officiated by Fr. Giovanni G. Piva, a family friend. The opening celebration, being a major social event in the middle of the Lenten Season, turned out to be a temptation too good to abstain from. A grand time was had by all and the newest go-to-spot in the metropolis earned its place in the maps of gimmickeros and gourmands everywhere.

Master Chef Isao Takada

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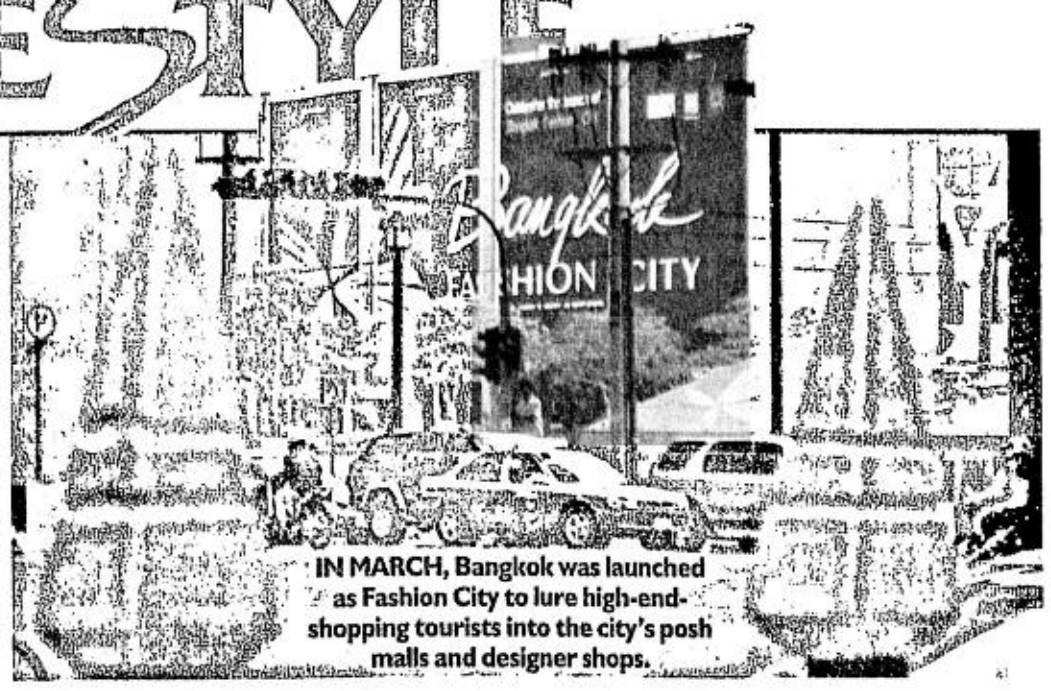
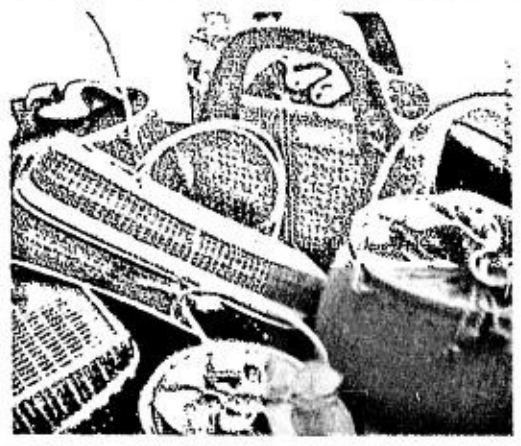
Shopping high in Thailand



IN MARCH, Bangkok was launched as Fashion City to lure high-end-shopping tourists into the city's posh malls and designer shops.



THESE export-quality bags are products of a government-funded livelihood program called One Tambon One Product.

Amazement and incredulity are words to describe Bangkok's shopping haunts

Text and photos by Cheche V. Moral

"YOU have no time to shop!"

That was our Thai guide Joseph on the megaphone. Again.

We knew the man was merely doing his job, but we had just about had it with him. "Okay, I give you five minutes... Now, only 4½ minutes... " Oh, now he was just being mean!

Mumbled curses and murderous glances were being thrown his way. When our cajoling, begging and protesting didn't work, we just ignored him and went on to grab every funky ring, watch, earrings and brooches as quickly and as many as we could until our police escorts led us away.

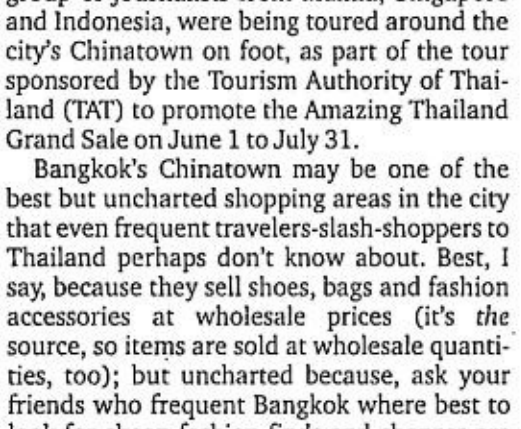
Before you start judging us, let me explain the situation.

It was our fourth day in Bangkok, and we, a group of journalists from Manila, Singapore and Indonesia, were being toured around the city's Chinatown on foot, as part of the tour sponsored by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to promote the Amazing Thailand Grand Sale on June 1 to July 31.

Bangkok's Chinatown may be one of the best but uncharted shopping areas in the city that even frequent travelers-slash-shoppers to Thailand perhaps don't know about. Best, I say, because they sell shoes, bags and fashion accessories at wholesale prices (it's *the* source, so items are sold at wholesale quantities, too); but uncharted because, ask your friends who frequent Bangkok where best to look for cheap fashion finds and chances are they'd say MBK, Chatuchak, Suan Lum Night Market, Siam Square and a whole list of shopping malls, but never Chinatown.

Now never mind the Indonesians and Singaporeans, who didn't seem to feel as passionately about the shopping part of the tour as our bunch of eight Pinays did. We were there to do a story on shopping, and we would

SHOPPING/ H4



FUNKY plastic bangles from Bangkok Chinatown. A dozen stack of these costs as much as two pieces in Manila.

A PILE of wooden clogs in Chinatown, where a dozen pairs of cool shoes costs about 750 bahts. PHOTOS TAKEN WITH FUJI FINEPIX F401

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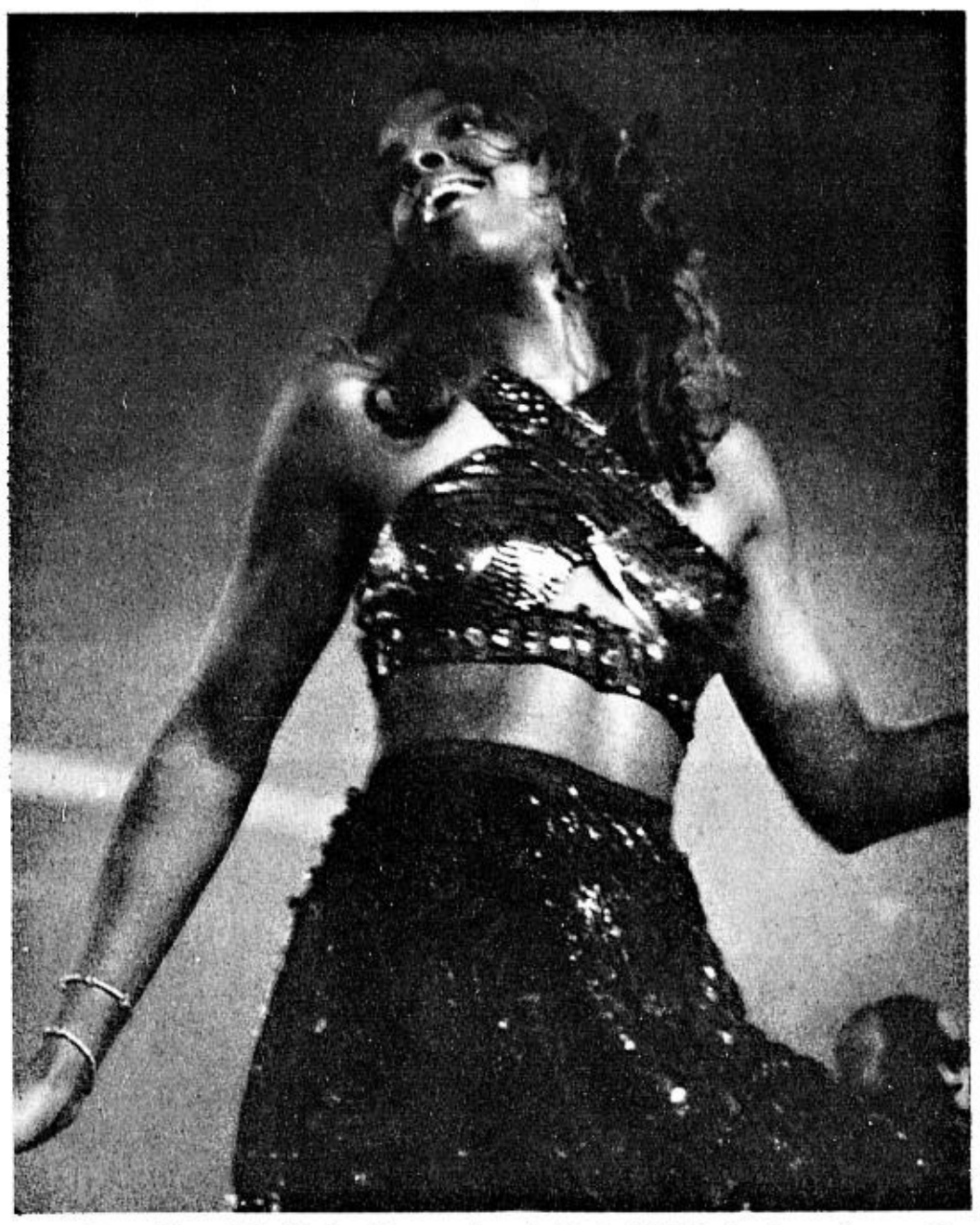


HONG Kong debut of the fabulous Grammy Award-winning Kelly Rowland, wearing one of Louis Vuitton's latest creations, gets everyone's adrenaline shooting sky-high.

MODELS in a stunning Louis Vuitton Spring/Summer 2004 RTW, during the cocktail-dinner cruise on the gorgeous Grand Cru Yacht

HONG Kong's popular society couple Andrew and Yvette Yuen, both in LV

TOP Malaysian actress Deanna Yussoff, star of "Anna and the King" and adorable Aileen Png, LV Singapore PR coordinator

SOCIALITE Michelle Yeoh with the fabi Kelly Rowland, both in LV outfits

Luxury logo holds grand 'trunk' party

LOUIS Vuitton certainly lived up to its name as a classy travel lifestyle and fashion name. It spared no expense to keep us comfortable and entertained, dahlings.

We were billeted at the elegant Mandarin Oriental Hotel Hong Kong. The first night, we attended chi-chi cocktails and dinner on board the gorgeous six-cabin yacht, the Grand Cru, where a section had been completely "Vuittonized" with iconic trunks and other fashionable Louis Vuitton items.

Apres a cruise around the river, we dashed off to the chic Kee Club, a popular nightspot, for heavy drinks to cap off the evening.

Next day, it was full of fun and exciting activities, starting with Tai Chi lessons at, would you believe, the scenic Chater Garden. Then it was brunch at the Peninsula, which housed the very first Louis Vuitton store in Hong Kong back in 1979.

Later this year, Louis Vuitton will expand and reopen its store in the Landmark in Central, which will become Asia's largest store in a complete Louis Vuitton building.

Lunch was a sumptuous affair at the famous and exclusive China Clipper, where we later boarded a helicopter for a scenic tour of Hong Kong. Now, dahlings, that's what style is all about.

Next stop was the Tea Museum, where we viewed the most beautiful tea-set patterns and indulged in tea-tasting with some instruction at the Lok Cha Tea House. That night, the 50 invited personalities from all over Asia and Australia went to Victoria Peak, where we had champagne-cocktails and an excellent dinner, at The Peak Lookout, which gave a magnificent night view of Hong Kong.

Friday was the big day. First stop was the Louis Vuitton Pacific Place store, the newest ultra-high-end store in Hong Kong, with an expanded offering and new-concept look. Then it was lunch at the renowned Dim Sum Restaurant in Happy Valley.

We then dashed back to the Mandarin Oriental for our interview with top Vuitton executives: Yves Carcelle, chair; Françoise Delage, executive VP; and the witty Monsieur Patrick Louis Vuitton, the fifth generation of the Vuitton family, no less.

A buffet dinner awaited us at the hotel's Clipper Lounge, after which we excitedly proceeded to Tamar Site in Central Hong Kong for Louis Vuitton's fabulous, glitzy bash.

LIN Chih Ling, a Taiwanese celebrity, and LV's Yves Carcelle

AUSTRALIAN accessories designer Tanya Lobban

ONE of the hotshots behind the huge success of the affair, brilliant organizer Andrew Glenn, the mega senior press and PR manager, LV Asia-Pacific

LV top executive of Japan Kyo Hata

CHINESE supermodel Lu Yan

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

Epic

Inside a 72 m x 30 m x 16 m "trunk," L.V. celebrated its 150th anniversary, with a party of epic proportion.

Some 3,000 hot-shot celebrities from high society, business, government and entertainment were there, including New World Development chair **Cheng Yutung**, casino tycoon **Stanley Ho**, Shanghai's Xintiandi owner **Vincent Lo** and Lan Kwai Fong King **Allan Zeman**.

They came out in full force to toast the French malletier's century-and-a-half of tradition, style and innovation.

Most of them made their entrance wearing Louis Vuitton as a show of support, breezing in fashionably in a fleet of luxurious BMW limousines, which were emblazoned with the Louis Vuitton logo on the window, natch.

The largest single event ever hosted by Louis Vuitton in Asia-Pacific had been the talk of the town for two weeks before the affair.

Hong Kong witnessed the massive construction of the venue taking shape, with more than 200 workers constructing what was reported to be "the world's largest three-dimensional projected billboard," created by using PGI projections and the latest in projection technology from France. The construction projected an antique Damier trunk, the world-famous canvas first created in 1888.

The party inside was definitely super-adrenaline-high, culminating in the HK debut of **Kelly Rowland**, the Grammy Award-winning singer and member of Destiny's Child, the best-selling female pop music group.

Dressed in the latest fashion from Louis Vuitton, Kelly belted out her internationally recognized hits and gave an encore performance later in the night.

With all the food and booze and beautiful people around, we boogied till we dropped to the beat of celebrated New York-based DJ **Mark Ronson** and London-based DJ **Alessandra Nerdrum**.

Visibly taking a breather with a sigh of relief over the huge success of the affair was cybersmart and brilliant **Andrew Glenn**, LV senior press and public relations manager for the Asia Pacific.

It was an awesome Hong Kong bash like no other I had been to, dahlings. Only Louis Vuitton could deliver a happening with such class and style that would be next to impossible to match.

Check out Louis Vuitton at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati. Visit www.louisvuitton.com

AMANDA Strang, top Taiwanese model in a black LV cocktail creation

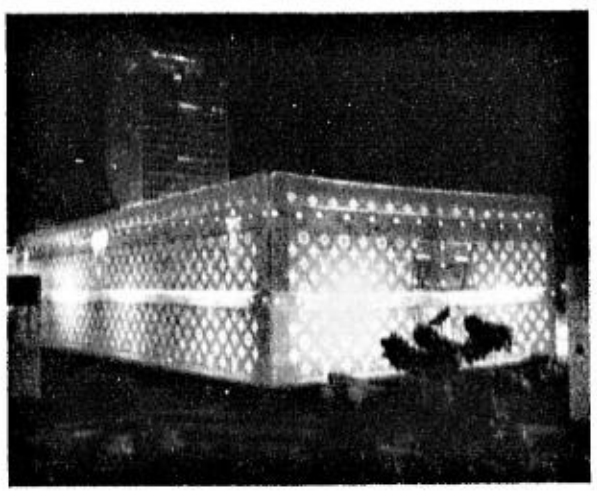
MIMMA Viglezio, communication director of Louis Vuitton Paris

LOUIS Vuitton's big three: Françoise Delage, executive vice president Asia-Pacific; with HK actress Zhang Ziyi; fifth-generation descendant of LV, director of special orders, LV, Patrick Louis Vuitton; and Serge Brunschwig, LV's top managing director

CORPORATE press manager of LV, Nathalie Tollu; press manager, publisher of Vogue Australia, Alice Wilkinson; Grant Pearce, editor of GQ Australia, publisher of Vogue Australia; Susan Westwood, senior editor, Vogue Australia

THE GANG of four. Pepper Teehankee, Celine Lopez wearing a Jun Escarion, workasonic Gigi Mabanta, LV Philippines mega general manager and *moi*

THE AWESOME, dramatic projection of the antique Louis Vuitton Damier trunk structure, with the stunning Hong Kong skyline at the background, easily covering a space of four tennis courts, is the largest monogram trunk in the world, where 3,000 personalities from all over the world partied till way past 4 a.m.



How about a mini vacation for Mama?

MOTHERS get glorious treats at Mandarin Oriental, Manila with special meals and room packages on May 9.

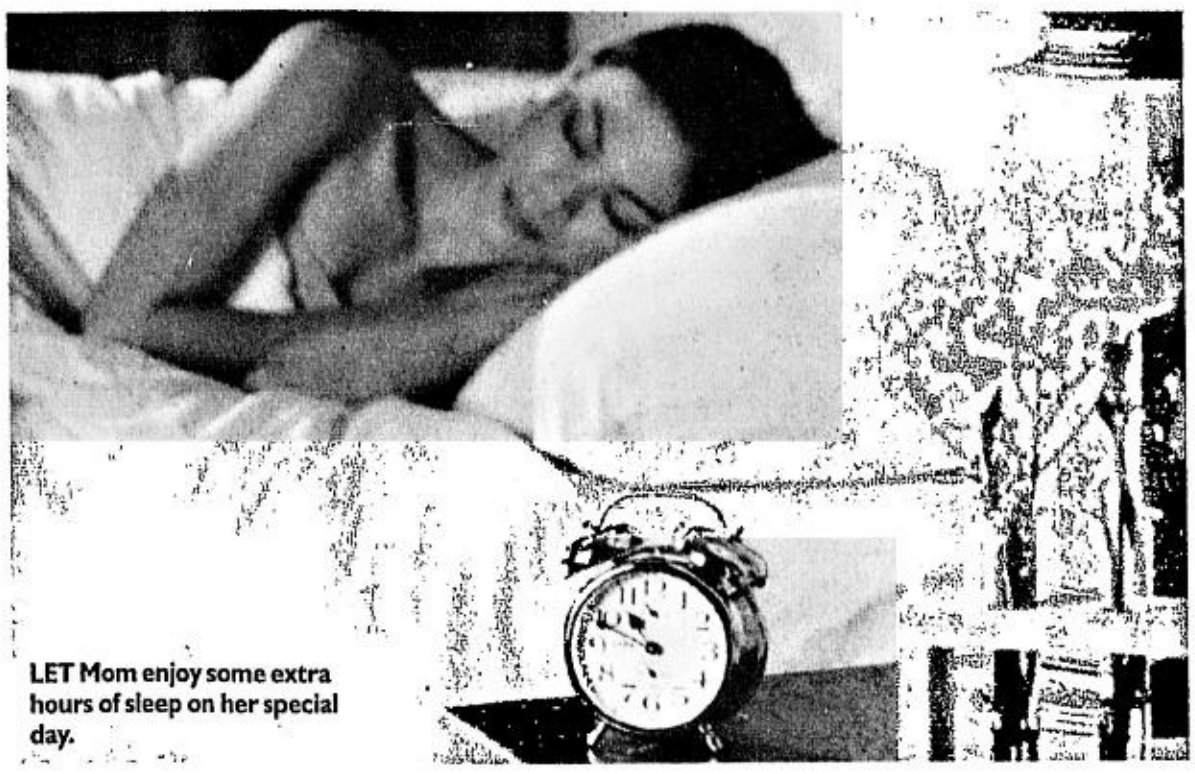
Discount vouchers and a raffle prize from Liz Claiborne await mothers who dine in the hotel restaurants and those availing of the room package.

Special Mother's Day buffets for brunch and dinner are available at Paseo Uno (P1,280+ for adults and P640+ for children aged 5-12 years old) and Tin Hau (P1,288+ for adults and P688+ for children).

The Tivoli offers brunch consisting of an appetizer and dessert buffet with a choice of main course at P1,450+ for adults and P725+ for children. Dinner is a five-course set menu for P1,900+ for adults and P950+ for children. The Captain's Bar offers a deluxe lunch buffet at P980+ for adults and P490+ for children. At the Mandarin Deli, a three-course set menu is available May 3-9 at P650+ per person. Hampers of goodies are offered starting at P1,000 each.

An overnight stay for Mom will include treatments from The Oriental Spa. Room packages start at P3,900+ for an overnight stay in a superior room inclusive of a buffet breakfast for two at Tin Hau, one complimentary Spa Reliever massage, and a 20-percent discount on all treatments at The Oriental Spa. For an additional night, room rates are reduced starting at P2,700+ for a superior room.

Room packages are valid May 1-31, and offered exclusively to Philippine residents only. Call 7508888 extensions 2304 and 2305.



LET Mom enjoy some extra hours of sleep on her special day.

Discounts for Moms

Holiday Inn celebrates Mother's Day with a special treat for Moms. All Moms in the house get a 30-percent discount on lunch or dinner buffet. Or for every four buffet meals, Mom eats free.

The first 15 Moms get a box of Nestlé Eclairs from May 7-9. Exciting prizes including South sea pearl from Jewelmer, gift packs from Good Housekeeping, Citibank and Marks and Spencer, and gift certificates from David Salon and Excelsior Spa also await Mom.

Call 6337111 loc. 7416 or 7440.

Special room packages

Discovery Suites has two unique and special room packages for mothers.

The All for Mom package offers a junior suite for only P3,200+; one-bedroom suite, P3,700+; two-bedroom suite, P5,800+; and three-bedroom suite, P8,400+. Mom and the family can participate in a number of activities like watercolor painting with the Agos Kulay artists at 9 a.m., Saturday, May 8, Santa Maria Room; Mother's Day Mass, 10 a.m., Discovery Center Atrium lobby; complimentary buffet lunch at Columbus until 2:30 p.m.

Moms will also receive complimentary buffet lunch vouchers which can be used on weekdays for the whole month of May.

The Indulgence Package lets mothers enjoy quiet and relaxing moments in a one-bedroom suite for only P4,500+. The whole family can get the two-bedroom or three-bedroom suites for P6,500+ and P9,000+, respectively.

Mothers can avail of relaxing treatments like sports or Swedish massage or a salt scrub treatment. Depending on the type of room reserved, the package includes up to three complimentary massages plus a 20-percent discount on additional massages.

Kids can enjoy a game or two at Action Kidz on the fourth level.

A 20-percent discount on romp room fee is offered to those who avail of both packages.

Mothers will enjoy complimentary buffet breakfasts at the Serendipity Lounge. They can use the gym and the swimming pool for free and enjoy a 20-percent discount at the Discovery Spa.

The All for Mom and Indulgence Packages are available to local residents May 1-31. Call 6352222.

Mother's Day weekend

Hotel Pontefino in Batangas City offers a family weekend getaway package for Mom.

On Mother's Day weekend, bring her and the whole family to a stress-free weekend in the elegant, luxurious surroundings of Hotel Pontefino. Enjoy chef Dennis Edillon's versions of popular Batangas dishes like *bulalo* as well as his own original creations like Macadamia Crusted *Tilapia* with smoked duck.

Hotel Pontefino's Mother's Day Weekend Package, May 8-9, is P5,500+ for two adults and P7,000+ for three adults. The package prices include overnight accommodation, continental breakfast, dinner buffet on Saturday, May 8; set lunch on Mother's Day, May 9; and 50-percent discount on spa services.

Up to two children under 10 years old are free of charge. Every additional adult person will be charged P1,500 and will enjoy the same privileges.

The family can also join Hotel Pontefino's Batangas Discovery Tours. Sign up for the Nagtuon Falls, Ecological Trek, the Taal Heritage Tour and Church Discovery Tour.

Hotel Pontefino is at Pastor Village, Gulod Labac, Batangas City. Call Manila Sales Office at 421-FINO or 4372103 or the Batangas City office at (043) 723-FINO, or visit www.pontefino.com.ph.

A doll for Mom

Avail of the Moms in Bloom room package May 7-9 at the Manila Pavilion Hotel.

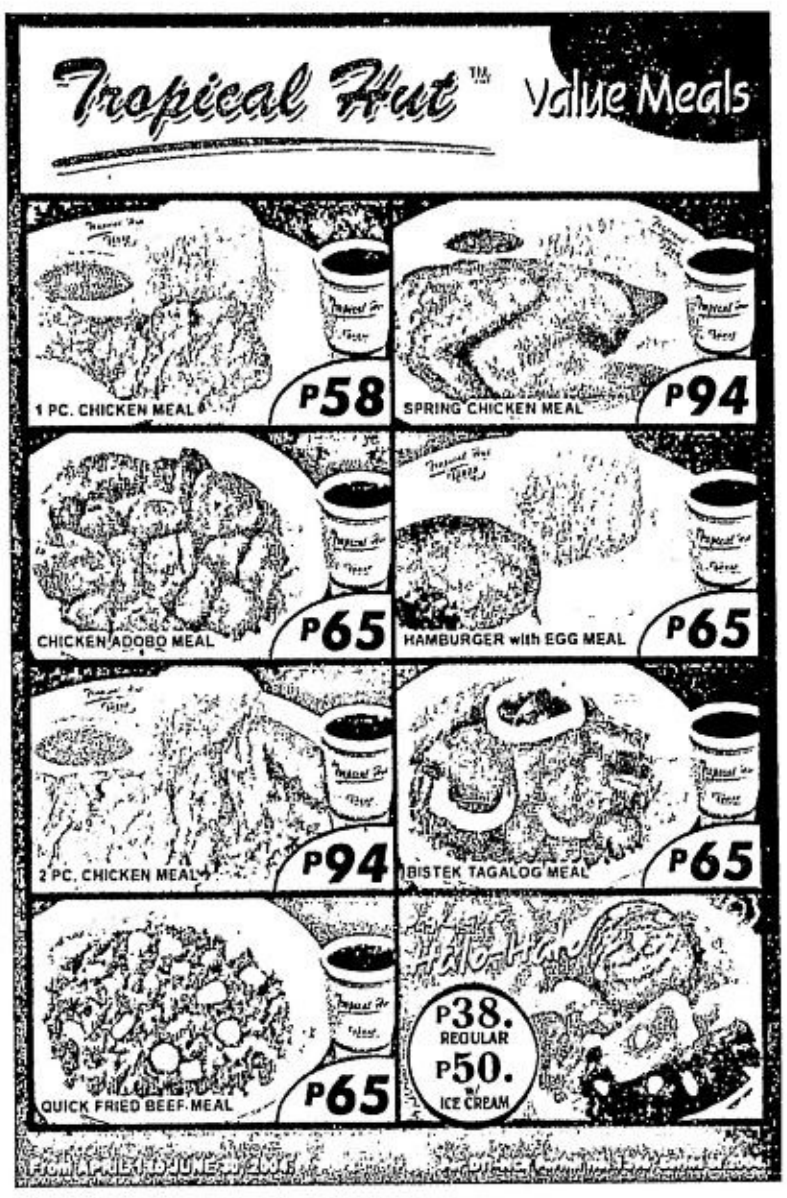
The package includes overnight accommodation in a Superior room, dinner buffet for two at Café Coquilla, and breakfast in the room.

Sunday brunch is available at the Café Coquilla on May 9. Moms will get a special gift.

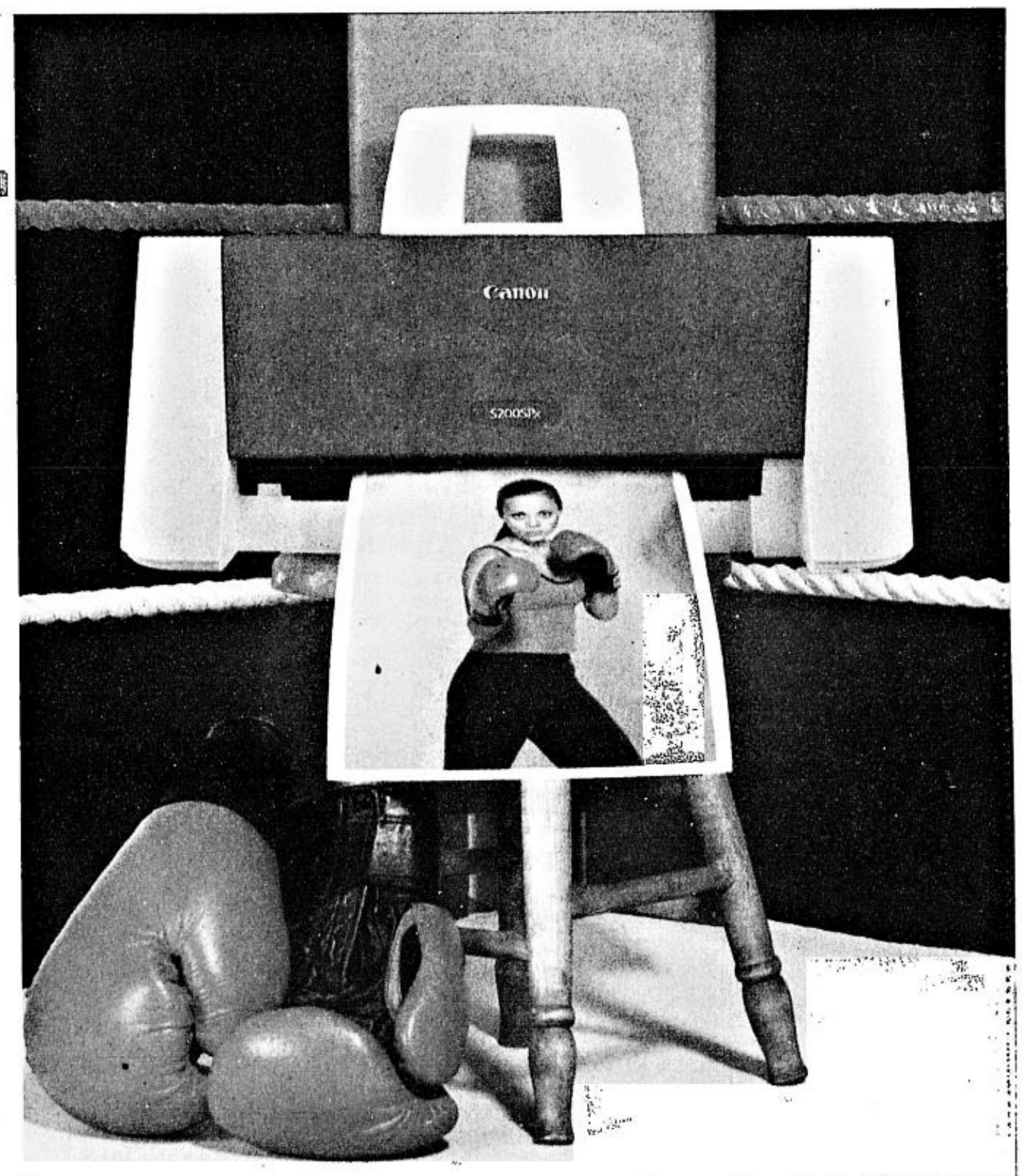
A *lauriat* lunch and dinner, Wo Ai Ni Mama, is available at the Pavilion Court. Commemorative Chinese dolls will be given away to mothers.

To mothers preferring a swinging night-out, Mom's Lullabies will be held at The Music Room May 8-9.

Call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 5261212 extension 2318.



Canon



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Sweet blooms

GET a special Mother's Day gift from Candy Bouquet, with its rich assortment of treats at G/F of The Podium.

Candy Bouquet gifts consist of delicious hand-wrapped candies and chocolates arranged like flowers.

The Philippines is one of 44 countries with a Candy Bouquet store.

BONBON candy favorites, flowers and gold chocolate coins in a wine bottle

BUTTERFLY cookies, chocolates and Bonbon candies accented with colorful balloons in a sun-inspired ceramic pouch

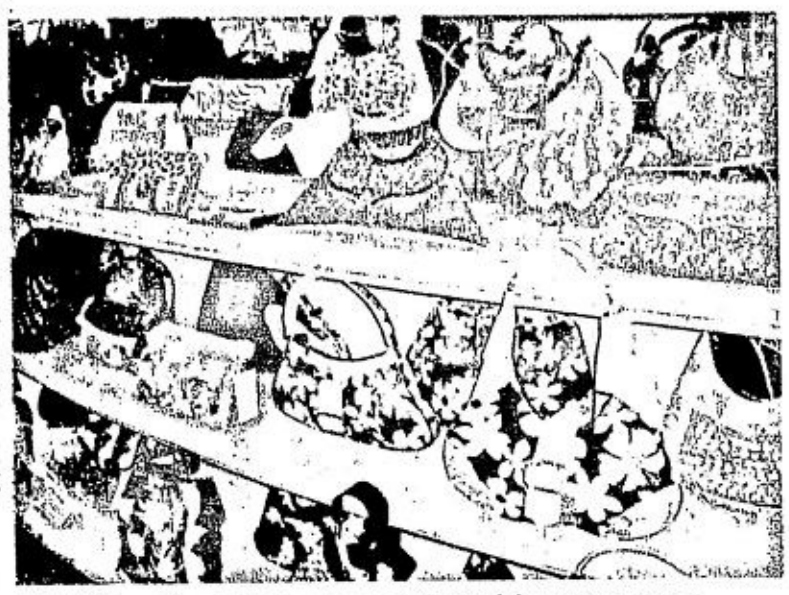
The store has decorative vases, mugs, tin cans, wine bottles, urns and pots for holding the sweets. Arrangements can by accented by stuffed toys, balloons and colorful wrappers.

Make Mom feel good

ROBINSONS Malls will have a special Mother's Day celebration, "Made only for Moms," to be held simultaneously from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, May 9, in the 11 Robinsons Malls' activity areas.

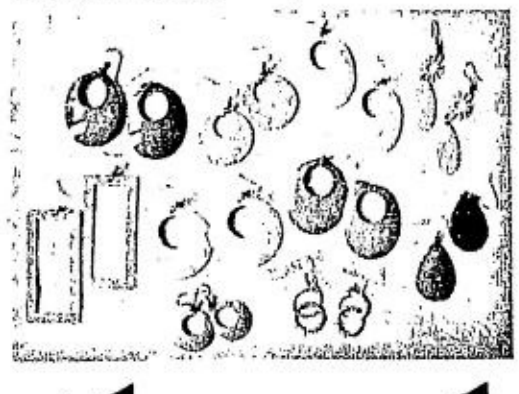
Moms can get "feel good" packages for free upon presentation of proofs of purchase.

The packages offer haircuts, hot oil treatments, facials, manicures, pedicures, massage, hand or foot spa, eye check-up and many more.



BEADED and floral designer bags at Central department store

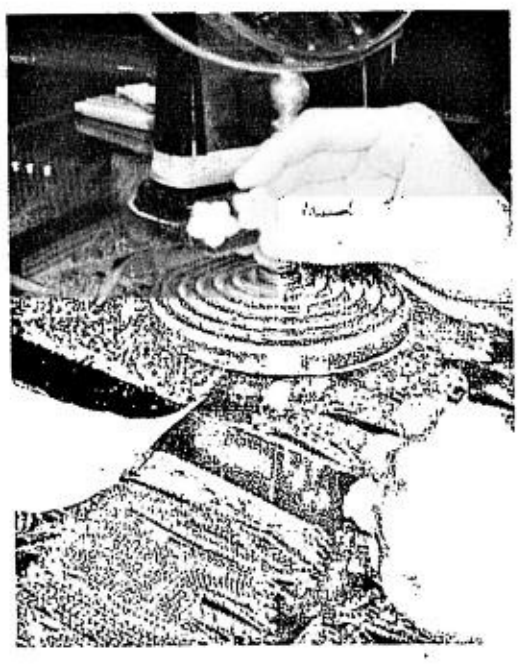
CANDY-HUED rhinestone rings (above) and '80s-style earrings (below) from Chinatown



THE SWANKY Discovery mall right across MBK, with a big Shu Uemura shop, and hip novelty store Loft, among others

Shopping high in Thailand

CHINATOWN is better known as the source of the so-called "Bangkok gold" (right). Metal earrings from Suan Lum (above)



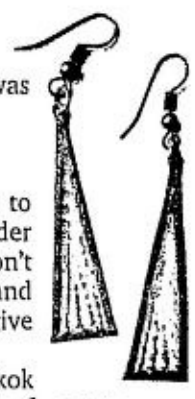
From page H1

be doing none of that? It was ridiculous!

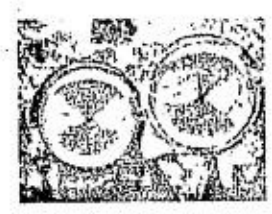
Shopping junkies

You don't bring a devotee to her place of worship and order her not to pray, right? You don't lead an alcoholic into a bar and leave him to drool. You don't give dope to a junkie and...

You see, that's what Bangkok shopping does: It strips you of your logic. Your judgment gets muddled. Your reasoning degenerates. Because everything looks good and affordable, your pupils dilate, your heart palpitates and you turn into this madwoman who just wants to snatch and bag every single item in sight.



GOLD-PLATED earrings from Suan Lum Night Market



COOL plastic watches from MBK

Which brings us back to our homicidal feelings toward Joseph. It wasn't personal. And it wasn't just about Chinatown.

There was that night we rented the hotel van for 1,000 bahts (one way; $1=39 bahts) in our excitement to get to Suan Lum Night Market in Lumphini Park near closing time. (On a metered taxi, the ride only costs around 80 bahts.) Then the driver missed our turn...

On our fifth day, a Sunday, bloodbath loomed when our bus driver, who was already driving way too slow, was pulled over by a traffic enforcer—and we were in a rush to get into the massive Chatuchak weekend market, which was to close in an hour!

It's like a year-round sale in this city that saying "Bangkok" and "bargain" in the same breath seems redundant. It's "50-off," "70-off" year-round, so you can imagine what it's like when they hold the annual nationwide grand sale.

Well, Filipino Bangkok-philes must know since, TAT director Udom Metatamrongsiri informed us, Pinoys are among the biggest shopping spenders in Thailand, next to the Chinese and the Indians. Metatamrongsiri added, shopping spending alone accounted for 28.44 percent of Thailand's tourism revenues in 2002.

From homeware to jewelry, fabrics, clothes and crafts, 90 percent of the merchandise sold in Thailand are domestic products, which shows the Thais' confidence in the quality of their work. Sure, there are the odd "Made in China" goods sold there, but those are mostly electronics.

So we never got to return to Chinatown at daybreak as we desperately planned. But brief trips to Central (Thailand's biggest department store chain) appeased us somehow, with our individual loads of Wacoal T-shirt bras (more colorful designs, and about a third to half of Manila prices—and they're *not* on sale!), shoes (half-off), and some clothes from popular local brands like X-Act (the brand is now in Manila, but, hey, they were on sale).

You need days and days to cover MBK, the multilevel bargain center that's akin to our Greenhills. We only had about two hours, but we got ourselves a good number of nice stuff there that nobody in Manila believes we had "no time to shop!" (Shopping *is* a skill, right?)

Colossal

Bangkok's colossal 35-acre weekend "Divisoria," Chatuchak, sells just about everything, from pets to plants to antiques to clothes. It's always jam-packed you need to practice elbowing yourself through the crowd, which one of the girls in our group graphically and comically demonstrated. The place is *sooo* huge that chances are, you can get lost.

If our six-day itinerary didn't include shopping time, we had Suan Lum to placate our retail longings every single night. It's not as intimidating as Chatuchak, the prices not as low as Chinatown, but the items sold there are quite good they seem like they've all been preselected for you. There, we witnessed other Pinay tourists laughably beg vendors to "Please, please, please! Give discount!" One of the girls from my group was even mistaken for a *biyahera* with her huge *supot* of goods.

CUTE brooches bought with "loose change" from Chinatown

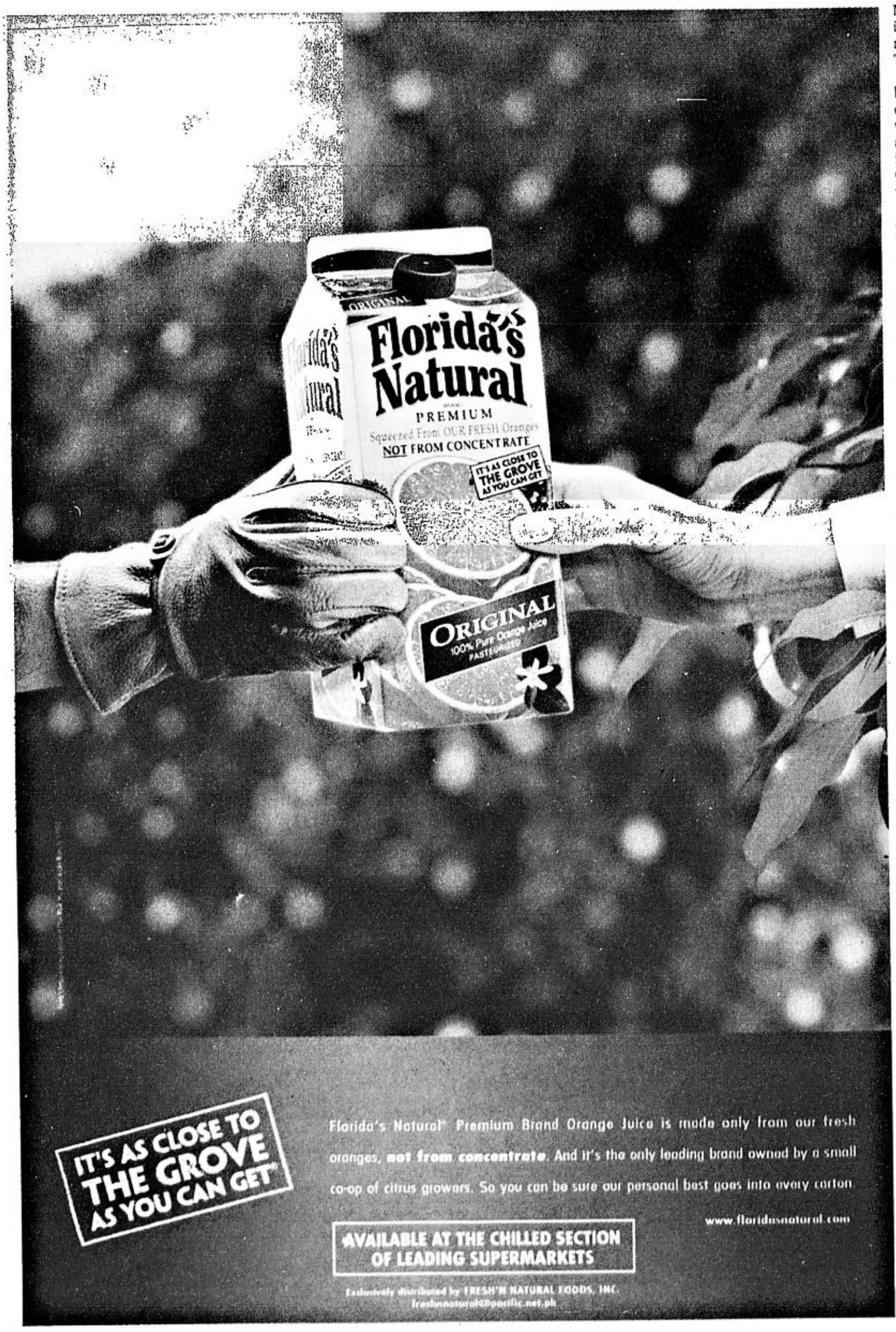
In the end, we left our guide Joseph unscathed, and with a rather generous tip, too. We left Bangkok with carry-ons bigger than our Singaporean and Indonesian counterparts' luggage. Even then, no one exceeded the 40-kg baggage limit our airline sponsor, Lufthansa, so generously allotted for us.

When finally we were settled in the blissful comfort of our business-class seats (it converts into a PrivateBed), sipping our glasses of champagne (the finest selected by world master sommeliers), I drifted to daydream-land with a silly grin on my face. Hmmm, no better way to fly, and the only way to go to Thailand on June 1 to July 31 when, again, it's time to shop.

Call the TAT Philippine Representative office at 9277780 or e-mail davedj@pacific.net.ph. Lufthansa flies to Frankfurt daily via Bangkok. Call 58-6400 or visit www.lufthansa-philippines.com

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

FROM TOP: A colorful blouse that I have decided I would never wear, from MBK; a cool tube top for the summer, from Chatuchak; and mini-skirts for my sister, from Chatuchak



MAURICE Arcache goes to a tres chic 'trunk' party /H2

LIFESTYLE

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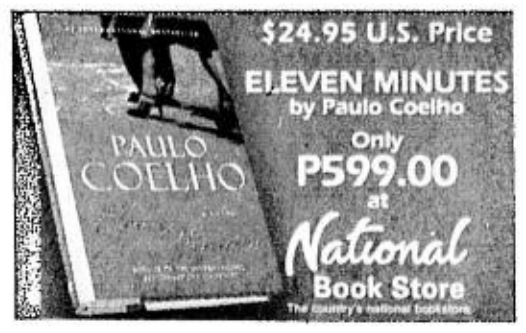

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The makeovers have been quite predictable, but we should not be cynical about our politics if only for the sake of the young and our future

Restyling for the presidency

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

ON "INQTV," I was asked to comment on how crucial packaging or creating image was in these elections. Of course, it has been and will always be crucial—from Roosevelt to Kennedy and so on, from Magsaysay to Marcos and on to the current breed. The mass media and the selling of politicians are a conjoined exercise.

In these elections, what we've seen so far are the basics of packaging. The restyling (or what passes for it) of any candidate to the presidency has been quite predictable—wardrobe and all. Nothing exceptional (not even that wig) or worth turning into a marketing case study.

This era's dependence on, if not obsession with, style hasn't waned. Decisions are based on perceptions. Style substitutes for substance. Sound bites obscure thinking or the lack of it. Non-message becomes the message. Stupidity isn't only chronic, it's become incurable and contagious.

The irony of it all is that the speedier and the more sophisticated communication technology has become, the less there is of critical thinking.

Issues—in the rare chance that they surface at all—are reduced into a he-says-she-says exercise. The campaign is just a battle of quotes, instead of a rigorous processing of facts. Intrigue is passed off as issue.

In this dumbed-down landscape where issues or platforms have been sorely missing, the victors who will govern are, at worse, accidents waiting to happen, or, at best, destined to be. At the end of the day, the presidency is destiny, over and beyond packaging or restyling.

Super cynical? I know of a few from the "swell crowd" (both business and high society) who have chosen to go abroad so they won't be around for the elections. Obviously, they choose not to vote out of either indifference or a feeling of resignation. They don't believe in any of the candidates.

In these elections, just as crucial as who'll win is the heightening level of cynicism, indifference or despair of people.

Other than stupidity, cynicism or indifference is the worst thing we can pass on to the younger generation. We must not let it build up into a contagion, if it hasn't already. My kids' generation is engrossed enough in malls, cell phones and other lifestyle perks, we don't need to reinforce their political cluelessness or indifference to their society. It's bad enough that, owing to their media savvy, they're becoming global in mindset and ways even before they can develop a sense of nationhood. We don't have to strengthen their suspicion that this country has no future to offer them.

In fact, it has. I believe so. I just look around and see the young entrepreneurs, in all sorts of fledgling businesses, or the work ethic manifested by many, high and low in the social ladder. The government will shortchange them if not cheat on them, as it has always done, but still that's not the end.

I'm glad that my son is voting and that most of my friends are, even if gut-feel tells you your vote could be stolen. Our future doesn't necessarily end with whatever presidency is put in place. Any president who thinks that, after election, s/he could lead the people by the nose, must have forgotten that Filipinos have very ingenious ways of redeeming themselves—and surviving. We are unpredictable in our predictability.

In fashionista lingo, Filipinos have perfected the art of makeover.

Cutting-edge Cebu

Speaking of ingenuity, there must be something in Cebu so that it's fast turning into the design center of the country—in fashion,

RESTYLING/ I4

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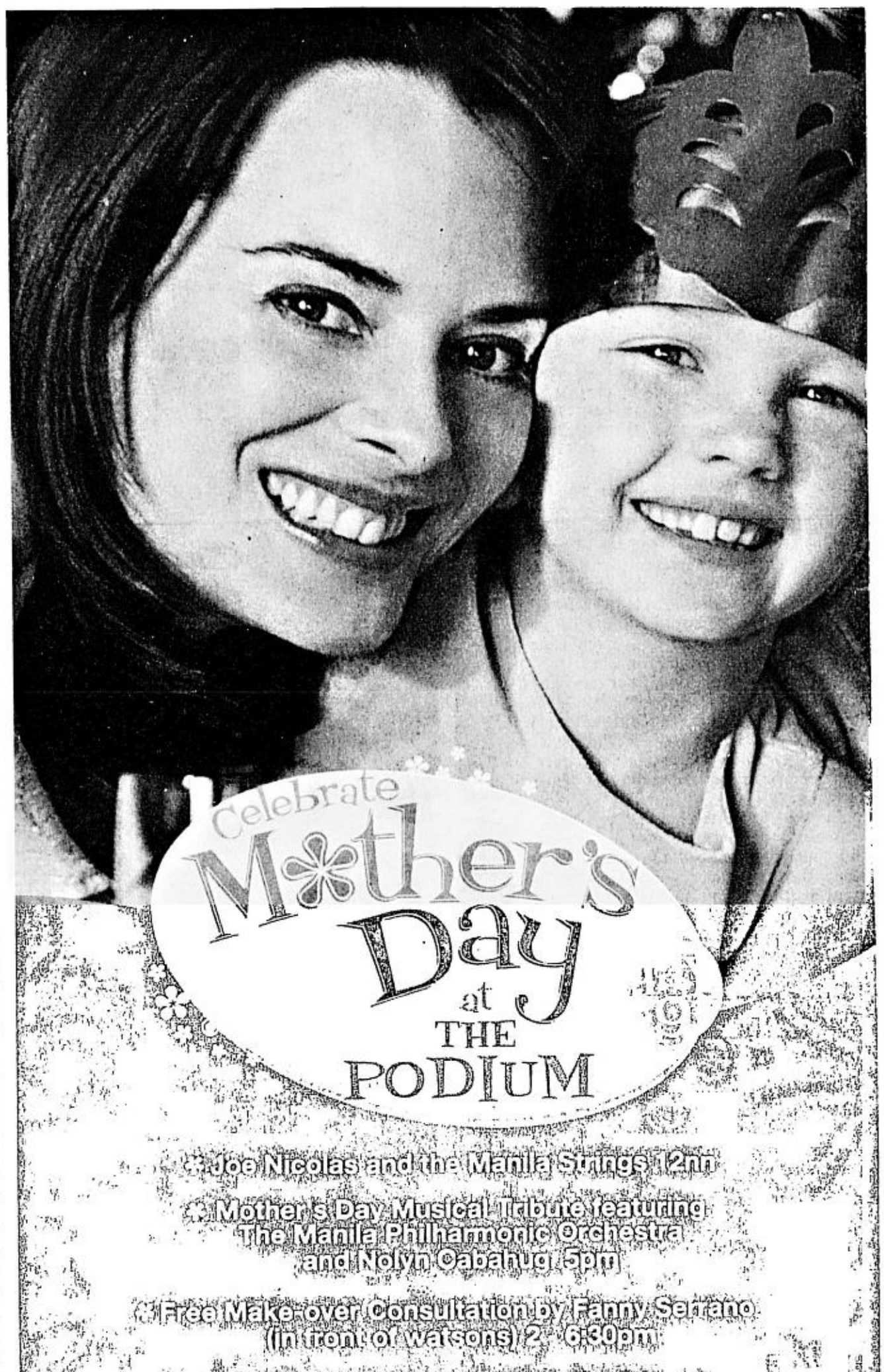

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More lessons on mangroves

RECENTLY, I received a copy of a new book, "Handbook of Mangroves of the Philippines-Panay," and felt I was being given an extended lesson on mangroves.

Earlier, I visited the Carbon Sink project of Mirant, a coal-fired power plant in Pagbilao, Quezon, which aimed mainly to conserve and rehabilitate mangrove forests in the area. Now, here is this new 6" x 8" volume filling me with more information on the value of mangroves.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

The book is written by a four-person team composed of Jurgenne H. Primavera, Resurreccion B. Sadaba, Ma. Junemie H.L. Lebata and Jon Altamirano, scientists in the field of zoology, natural science, biology and ocean science and fisheries.

Except for Primavera, who is from the UP Diliman, the rest are from UP Visayas. Each was introduced to the importance of mangroves not only in their particular fields but also to people in general in the course of their respective studies.

The idea for the book was first broached in 2001 by Dr. Primavera. When the project was approved, the team was brought together to build an "impressive storehouse" of mangrove information. Documentation was made possible with the support of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec) Aquaculture Department (AQD). Funding came from the Man and Biosphere project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

Not surprisingly the four authors concentrated on this part of our ecology since their separate studies showed them how important mangroves were not only to the people in mangrove areas but to a whole ecosystem that depended on the trees for survival.

Nor is it surprising that Panay was the chosen site for the study. Panay, after all, is said to be one of the oldest islands in the archipelago, rich in coral beds and fossils. But many of the mangroves that used to grow in lush profusion in the tidal inlets along the coasts of the island have been preempted by "endless box-like fishponds" so that only a few scattered trees can now be seen along the creeks and river banks.

About the only place that has remained untouched, but only because "development" has been slow there, is Aklan. For this reason, the authors believe that the mangroves need to be protected from conversion to aquaculture ponds and other illegal activities.

The book is written not just as a handy reference for science students like the authors but for everyone who desires to understand the importance of mangroves. To many urban residents, mangroves are relatively unknown. Some of us may never get to see or know mangrove trees in our lifetime unless we make a special effort to visit them or, at least, read up on them.

Their importance is actually understated. Over the centuries, say Primavera et al, mangrove ecosystems have provided a variety of goods and services to coastal communities and larger society. First of all, they are the breeding grounds of fish and other aquatic life. They also form a buffer zone, stabilize sediment, reduce shore line and riverbank erosion, regulate flooding and recycle nutrients. The authors tell stories of how people survived storms and typhoons by clinging to nearby mangroves.

The book comes with complete information on more than 30 species of mangroves on Panay Island. Photos, many of them taken by the authors themselves, show how the trees look, with close-ups of leaves, flowers and fruits and their individual descriptions.

Local names of the species are also provided for easy identification. Acanthus, for example, is known as *lagiwliw* and *ragoyroy*; and *xylocarpus*, *tabigi* and *lambigi*. Tables are provided to simplify explanations, like one that compares different *avicennia* species in Panay, noting their location, leaves, flowers and fruits.

There are sections on mangrove conservation and rehabilitation, mangrove-friendly aquaculture, as well as products derived from mangrove forests, and how coastal communities can earn from them. This book takes it place among other Philippine environmental guide books like the "Philippine Red Data Book" by the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines, "Key Conservation Sites in the Philippines" by the Haribon Foundation, "Field Guide to Whales and Dolphins in the Philippines" by Ma. Lorenzo Tan, and others, each one shedding light on the state of specific areas of our biodiversity.

For more information on the book, contact the Aquaculture Department, Seafdec, Tigbauan, Iloilo.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RENE Ledesma Jr., executive vice president of Ledesco Development Corp., shakes hands with Organic Market managing director Mara Pardo de Tavera after the two had inked a memorandum of agreement that will allow Organic to develop a showcase of organic farming technologies for the lot owners of Taal View Heights and Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club shareowners.

Shoes and bags fair

STA. LUCIA East Department Store holds the Shoes and Bags Fair until May 31. For a minimum purchase worth P300, get a chance to win an all-expense-paid trip for two to Boracay plus pocket money.

GOINGS ON

CELEBRATION. To commemorate its 334th Foundation Day, the city of Makati holds activities until June 1. San Miguel Beer will host a street party on Kalayaan Avenue near P. Burgos Street on May 14. Cooking demos will be held on May 15 and 20 at Rockwell Center and Homezone-Glorietta 4. A *tiangge* and games will be held on May 16.

OPEN HOUSE. The European International School will have an open house on May 8, 2-5 p.m. The school is at 75 Swaziland, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque. Call 7761000.

SEMINAR. The Young Image Course, a personality development seminar for kids, teens and young adults, is set on May 13 at Alabang Town Center. Call 7819861.

COURSE. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will offer a basic photo course starting May 16. Call 8435341 or 8137420.

WORKSHOP. Businessmaker Academy will hold a workshop on Animal Box Art on May 19 and 26. Learn to create pillow boxes, cube boxes and open form boxes with animal shapes. Call 6874445/3416/4645.

SEMINAR. A seminar on Treating Physical and Emotional Complaints with Homeopathic Remedies and Flower Essence Therapy is slated on May 22, 2-6 p.m., at Eastpoint Business Center, East Service Road, Taguig. Call 7262338.

SEMINAR. The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. will hold a seminar-workshop "Making a Headway Towards an E-Library: Conversion of Printed Documents into Digital Materials" and a regional assembly on May 27-29 at the Cooyesan Hotel, Naguillan Road corner Asin Road, Baguio City. Call 8983561/3575, 9292180 or 4266606.

BOOK FAIR. The 8th Philippine Academic Bookfair will be held on July 12-16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, QC. Call 9279858.

2 pouches (250 g.) CLARA OLÉ Italian Style Spaghetti Sauce
1 pc. green bell pepper, chopped
400 g. ground beef
1/2 cup grated cheese
1/4 cup breadcrumbs

ot oil until soft. Set aside. Leave 2 tsps. of oil rbs. Cook for 1 minute. Add in the bell pepper etti Sauce. Add in the beef and simmer mixture e a tablespoon of beef mixture onto each dish. Spread remaining spaghetti sauce over adcrumbs. Cover baking dish with foil and bake vn top and bake for another 10-15 minutes. oil.

TLC Fiesta

CLARA OLÉ Spaghetti Sauce • Italian Style 250 g. P16.00

Eggplant P17.00/kg.

Squash P10.00/kg.

Green Bell Pepper P69.00/kg.

Indian Mango P12.00/kg.

Latundan P22.00/kg.

GALA Apples #125 P89.00/kg.

RED GLOBE Grapes P99.00/kg.

MAYFAIR Chocolate • Assorted 50's — TLC Price P22.00/pk. Reg. Price 23.50

SUNFLOWER Crackers • On Selected Flavors 25 g./10's — TLC Price P23.50/pk. Reg. Price 24.75

NABISCO Chips Ahoy 85 g — TLC Price P26.50 ea. Reg. Price 28.50

PRINGLES Potato Chips • On Selected Flavors 150 g. — TLC Price P65.50 ea. Reg. Price 67.50

LEGEND Rippled Potato Chips • On Selected Flavors 75 g. — TLC Price P20.25 ea. Reg. Price 21.25

REGENT Cheese Ring Snack 65 g — TLC Price P7.00 ea. Reg. Price 7.50 *Not available in SM Baguio

OISHI Prawn Crackers 60 g — TLC Price P7.00 ea. Reg. Price 7.50

X.O. Candy • Strawberry Swirl • Orange Twist 50's — TLC Price P19.50/pk. Reg. Price 22.50

GOLDILOCKS Pik-a-Pop! • Nutty Caramel 100 g — TLC Price P34.50 ea. Reg. Price 39.95

BLUE COW Evaporated Milk 386 mL — TLC Price P22.50 ea. Reg. Price 23.50

ACT II Microwave Popcorn • On Selected Flavors 297 g — TLC Price P84.50 ea. Reg. Price 88.50

JELLY ACE Jelly Snack • Assorted Flavors 18's — TLC Price P15.50/pk. Reg. Price 17.50

TANG Powdered Juice Drink • Orange — TLC Price P74.50 ea. Reg. Price 76.50

RAINBOW Magic Jelly Drink 300 g — TLC Price P13.50 ea. Reg. Price 14.50 *Not available in SM Baguio

ABSOLUTE Pure Distilled Water 5 Liters — TLC Price P57.00 ea. Reg. Price 59.50

E-PLUS Energy Drink In Can • Extreme 245 mL — TLC Price P27.50 ea. Reg. Price 29.50

KANKUNIS Herbal Tea In Can — TLC Price P189.50 ea. Reg. Price 199.50

CLOSE-UP Toothpaste • On Selected Variants 150 mL — TLC Price P61.75 ea.

STREPSILS Gargle 120 mL — TLC Price P105.00 ea. Reg. Price 113.75

BABES Hair Glow For Men 135 mL — TLC Price P40.00 ea. Reg. Price 46.75

LANDER Lotion • Advanced Formula 590 mL (20 oz.) — TLC Price P60.00 ea. Reg. Price 64.75

HENO DE PRAVIA Deo Roll-On 60 mL — TLC Price P50.00 ea. Reg. Price 52.75

NIVEA Sun Children's Spray • SPF30 200 mL — TLC Price P375.00 ea. Reg. Price 394.75

TENA Disposable Diapers • Junior 10's — TLC Price P135.00/pk. Reg. Price 142.75

STIEFEL Sastid Bar Soap 100 g. — TLC Price P99.00 ea. Reg. Price 105.75

DOMEX Thick • Lemon • Mountain Fresh 1 Liter — TLC Price P115.00 ea. Reg. Price 121.75

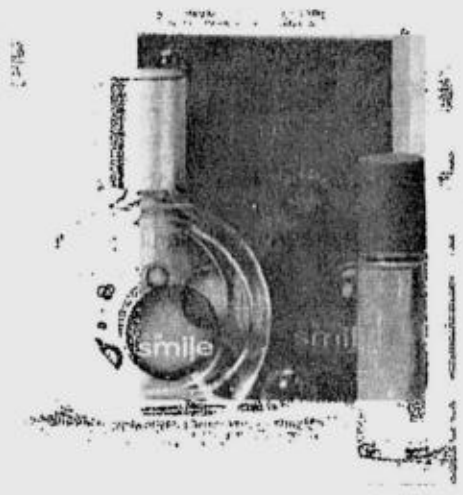
PERWOLL Liquid Detergent 2 Liters — TLC Price P196.00 ea. Reg. Price 199.75

KOALA Mothballs 200 g — TLC Price P28.00 ea. Reg. Price 31.75

BAYGON Mosquito Killer Spray 300 g — TLC Price P109.00 ea. Reg. Price 114.75 *Not available in SM Baguio & Lucena

KIWI Liquid Instant Shine • All Variants 75 mL — TLC Price P96.00 ea. Reg. Price 102.75

RS AIRVENT Car Air Freshener • On Selected Variants with Holder — TLC Price P99.75 ea. Reg. Price 119.75



Sweet-smelling text promo

AVON'S newest fragrance is sure to bring a smile.

Avon Smile is a citrus floral fragrance from a refreshing concoction of nectarine, lemon, hyacinth, freesia, rosewood and soft musks. It comes in 50-ml eau de toilette spray and 9 ml shimmering purse concentré.

Smile is available from all Avon ladies this month and in Avon boutiques in SM Megamall, SM Southmall, Glorietta and Ali Mall.

As a special introductory promo, Avon presents the first-ever Hello Avon Smile Text Promo. Every purchase of any Avon Smile fragrance entitles a customer to Smile cards. Customers can win cash prizes by simply sending by text the unique codes featured in the Smile cards.

Call 8642900 or ask an Avon Lady.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

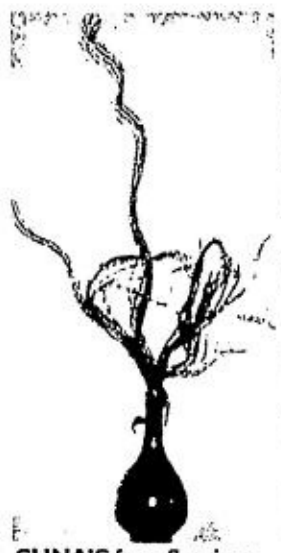
Rachy Cuna holds seminar on flower arrangement

FLORAL architect Rachy Cuna with one of his flower arrangements.

LEARN the latest trends in flower arranging from Rachy Cuna, dubbed the country's floral architect.

Green 2000 Garden Center, the one-stop-garden shop, and Yalan Trade present Cuna in a flower arrangement workshop on May 15, 2 p.m. at the AEK Building II, 40 E. Rodriguez Ave., QC. Workshop fee is P200 for Green 2000 Garden Center members only.

Cuna, who is known for his natural, free-flowing and freestyle designs, will demonstrate how to use permanent botanicals and dried materials in arranging flowers for various settings and occasions. He will also discuss how to choose flowers and foliage to match the containers, as well as how to mix a floral color palette.


CUNA'S free-flowing design

Yalan Trade, a sister company of Green 2000 Garden Center, specializes in dried flowers, grasses and leaves, and permanent botanicals. It also has vases for flower arranging and materials for potpourri making.

The workshop, which will have a hands-on session, will accept only 30 participants.

Call 7321942/1872 or 4342347.

AN AVANT-GARDE arrangement by Cuna

Mall honors moms

IN CELEBRATION of Mother's Day, Rockwell's Power Plant brings you "Mom's Family Day," an extraordinary treat for the whole family with Mom as the lead star.

The exciting treats include pony rides, horse-drawn carriages, musical serenades, makeovers and foot spas.

Power Plant will be the first and only mall in the metro to offer pony rides. There's no need to drive all the way up to Tagaytay, as ponies await tiny tots right in the heart of Makati starting May 8 and all throughout the merry month of May.

On May 8-9, Mom can choose to go on a fun tour with the whole family or a romantic tour alone with Dad around Power Plant Mall on a horse-drawn summer carriage.

And on Mother's Day, May 9, starting at 4 p.m., lounge singer and pianist Ria Villena will serenade Mom with timeless classics at the North Court of the mall.

Meanwhile, at the South Court of the Mall, mommies will be honored by "Joey@92.3 FM Salutes Mom's Family Day" program. Free beauty makeovers and foot-and-nail spas fit for a queen will indulge our favorite lady on her special day.

Power Plant's homage to moms will culminate with a concert at the Plaza Strip featuring South Border, Manila's leading R&B band. Watch them sing live as they perform their original hits like "Kahit Kailan," "Love of My Life" and "Rainbow," among others.

Restyling for the presidency

From page 11

fashion accessories and furniture. Our visits last week with these designers showed us how they've been pushing design to the cutting edge.

Waterfront general manager **Marco Protacio** and PR **Renee Villasin** arranged our meetings. Fashion designer **Arcy Gayatin** brought us to bag and accessories designer **Doro Barandino** of Jim Castler, who popularized the coco-shell bag (i.e. with mahjong tile design). Doro taps yet more unconventional materials—for example, rubber shreds—in a variety of geometric shapes.

At another famous exporter, Avatar headed by **Gil Carungay**, our staff drooled over walls and walls of bags and fashion accessories—chandelier earrings, loop necklaces, giant rings. **Charlie Manatad** and Dutch partner **Michiel Ansingh** showed their Victorian era-inspired necklaces, earrings and bracelets using colored stones and religious medallions.

In the showroom of Movement 8's award-winning designer **Kenneth Cobonpue**, we saw one of his latest works—the Chiquita chair—made of rattan sticks. Sit on it and those sticks (standing on what must be a foam) move and sink with your butt. In an ongoing exhibit in Barcelona, Spain, Kenneth's work is exhibited alongside that of Philippe Starck.

Experimentation among Cebu designers is on a fine momentum. Their edge over their counterparts in Manila or elsewhere is that these artists and artisans thrive in the export business—and because they're specialized they are undaunted by China.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

■ **Sports / A25**

Pacquiao bares weapon ahead of the fight

■ **News/ A2**

Drilon, Villar in showdown for Senate presidency

■ **Science / B18**

Hair loss not just men's concern

■ **Across / A17**

Bayan Muna campaign ends in 2 deaths

■ **Super / I1**

Invasion of the B-listers

Roco 'miting' in Naga; FPJ in Makati; none for GMA

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine Avendaño

NAGA CITY—He was still way up in the air on a private plane hovering over the airport but already thousands of Bicolanos were cheering their favorite son.

Tumbling in the survey ratings but un-

ROCO/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Religious blocs more potent now than Catholic Church

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

CHARISMATIC religious groups could play a pivotal role for the first time in the coming elections as they may deliver the deciding votes for President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to East-West Center, an American think tank.

RELIGIOUS/ A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, May 8, 2004 ★★ 88 pages / 11 sections / vol. 19 / no. 150 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Danding loses SMC case

Bishops bare 'forced absentee voting' in AFP

By Blanche S. Rivera and Martin P. Marfil

AT LEAST 216,000 people are being mobilized under "Operation Tutok" to fight what military officers called a detailed plan for "systematic, massive and intense" electoral fraud, leaders of the Catholic Church said yesterday.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, who are leading the multisectoral coalition for honest and peaceful elections (HOPE), said they were "begging" all those concerned to abandon the alleged plan and heed their consciences for the sake of the nation.

Two groups of military officers are said to have met with the three archbishops and officers of the coalition for HOPE to seek the Church's help in derailing the electoral fraud that the Armed Forces has allegedly been ordered to facilitate.

Quoting the military officers, the coalition said AFP personnel had been made to vote in the

BISHOPS/ A22

SHOW OF HOPE: Archbishop of Manila Gaudencio Rosales (left) and Cardinal Vidal meet the press to launch "Operation Tutok" which will closely monitor poll fraud such as the alleged irregular votng in the AFP.

AFP

SHOW OF FORCE: Soldiers at Camp Aguinaldo prepare for deployment on Election Day for possible terror attacks, according to government officials.

JOAN BONDOC

Sandigan rules coconut farmers own 27% of firm

By Armand Nocum and Dona Pazzibugan

THE SANDIGANBAYAN anti-graft court yesterday awarded to the government a 27 percent bloc of shares in San Miguel Corp., the country's largest company, that coconut farmers claim as their own because it was bought using funds from the levy collected from them during the Marcos dictatorship.

The decision, released just four days before the national elections on Monday, was a partial summary judgment of the 17-year litigation over the ownership of the coconut levy funds and did not cover a separate 20 percent bloc of SMC shares held by chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government sequestered the 47 percent bloc of SMC shares after the Edsa people power revolution of 1986 which toppled the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, claiming they were part of the ill-gotten assets of Marcos and his cronies.

A jubilant PCGG chair Haydee Yorac said it was only a matter of time before the government takes back the entire 47 percent contested SMC shares from Cojuangco.

"It's good news to the people. It's good news to the coconut farmers," said Yorac.

"The coco levy funds are conclusively public funds and therefore all shares and properties acquired thorough it must be returned to government," she said.

Although the ruling could still be appealed before the Supreme Court, she said she had no doubt at all that the government "will get back everything".

She said she did not mind how long the decision would take "for as long as there is reasonable possibility that it will be decided soon, instead of the farmers just waiting and waiting."

Yorac said she did not believe the unfavorable ruling against

DANDING/ A20

Gloria not impressed by Bro. Eddie's big crowd

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG remains undaunted or is in denial about preacher Eddie Villanueva's reported one million supporters who turned up at his *miting de avance* on Thursday at Rizal Park, Manila.

"Big crowds do not necessarily mean big votes," said deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo. "*Paano ba ang eleksyon natin, paramihan ng* crowd *o paramihan ng boto*? (Is our election based on the number of crowds or the number of votes?)"

So why was the President's miting de avance scrapped? During a briefing with Saludo, a reporter

GLORIA/ A22

Has Gringo dumped FPJ? Sample ballots show his Guardians back GMA

By Carlito Pablo

SPECULATION has grown that Sen. Gregorio Honasan has dumped opposition standard bearer Fernando Poe Jr. after sample ballots released by the Honasan faction of a right-wing fraternal organization were shown to endorse President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The sample ballot reportedly released in the past two days by the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. endorsed Ms Macapagal and her running mate Sen. Noli de Castro, and split the senatorial slate evenly between the administration's K-4 coalition and Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

Copies of the PGBI sample ballot were furnished the office of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. who on May 3 signed a covenant with Honasan in which the latter committed the PGBI's support for the programs of the President and help ensure clean and peaceful elections on May 10.

The Guardians sample ballot, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, identified the PGBI as their party-list candidate and Honasan as the PGBI's principal nominee for party-list representative. Honasan's term as senator ends on June 30.

A PGBI insider said Honasan, who is Poe's chief campaign security officer, knew about the sample ballot and had approved its release.

The source said Honasan had issued a letter to accompany the sample ballot in which he exhorted the Guardians to abide by the spirit of the May 3 covenant.

"The letter and sample ballot should be taken as one," the PGBI insider said.

Honasan, a failed coup plot-

HAS GRINGO/ A22

'Hello...' and then the line went dead

By Luige del Puerto

THE LINE went dead and he was seized with foreboding.

At around 9 p.m. on Thursday, Elmer Passion phoned his boss, engineer Jaime Boral, supervisor of a construction firm.

Boral heard Passion say "hello" before the line went dead.

"I could not sleep after that. I sensed something was terribly wrong," Boral told the INQUIRER early yesterday at the Mandaluyong police station.

It turned out that Boral was right to be apprehensive.

Passion, an architect, and Angelito Canonicato, an engineer, were shot and killed while grappling with holdup men on board a Southern Citylines bus at around 11 p.m. Thursday night, police said.

The bus with Plate No. PYK-307 was traveling northbound on Edsa from Ayala Avenue in Makati when three men armed with .45-cal. pistols and a grenade declared the holdup.

Police said the holdup men had boarded the bus on Leveriza Street in Manila. All three are now behind bars at the Mandaluyong police station.

Petronillo Edraga, 21, of Letre, Malabon, could not say who between Passion and Canonicato tried to wrest his gun from him.

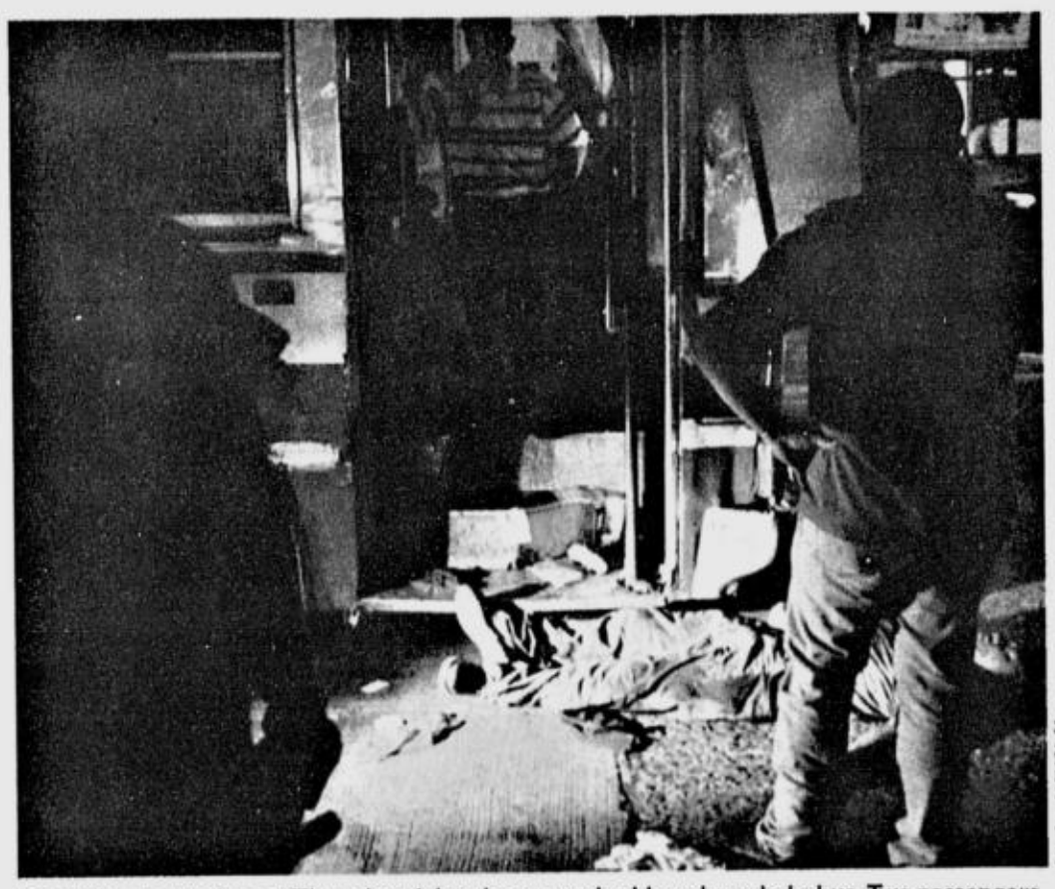
"The shooting was an accident. He was trying to grab my gun," Edraga meekly said in Filipino. "The other one also tried to fight us off, so my companion shot him."

He said both men appeared drunk.

Boral, listening to Edraga's account, was outraged.

"Just like that?" he shouted at Edraga, his fingers trembling with anger. "You shot them just like that? They were good men!"

HELLO/ A20



DEATH rode this bus on Thursday night when armed robbers boarded a bus. Two passengers who bravely fought it out with the gunmen were shot dead.

DANIEL SANTIAGO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/08/04

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2004

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

THE OTHER RACE: SENATE PREXY

Drilon-Villar showdown looms

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ANOTHER kind of campaign has been going on when nobody was looking.

While the presidential and senatorial aspirants were scouring the countryside for votes in the past three months, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Manuel Villar were silently conducting their own parallel campaign.

Sources from the administration camp—an incumbent senator and and an administration senatorial candidate—said the two have been wooing their fellow senators in a showdown for the Senate presidency at the opening of the 13th Congress next month.

Villar was likely to wrest the presidency from Drilon by getting the majority support, said the sources who declined to be identified.

A self-made businessman and the Speaker at the impeachment of President Joseph Estrada in 2000, Villar is rumored to run for President in the next presidential elections. Drilon, a seasoned politician, has also been regarded as presidential timber.

"We are actually in the process of choosing the Senate president," the administration K4 senatorial candidate told the INQUIRER.

He said that while the campaign period was in full swing, Drilon and Villar had been talking to the senatorial candidates who were most likely to win and join the 12 hold-over senators in the next Senate.

This was confirmed by an incumbent senator who said Villar had asked administration senatorial candidates Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Robert Barbers for their support.

Drilon and Villar have joined President Macapagal-Arroyo in some of her sorties and Drilon has been issuing statements supportive of the President. Asked who the President would endorse between her two allies in the event she wins, one source said: "The one who gives her the biggest financial support."

DRILON

VILLAR

"The Senate tradition is that the majority chooses among themselves who they would put up for Senate President. Thus, whoever gets the majority vote within the majority becomes the candidate against the minority nominee," the source said.

There are seven hold-over senators allied with the administration—Drilon, Villar, Juan Flavier, Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto, Francis Pangilinan and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., with Sen. Noli de Castro "who expects to be vice president." Senators Edgardo Angara, Luisa Ejercito, Serge Osmeña and Panfilo Lacson, a presidential candidate, are the holdovers from the opposition.

The senator said Drilon is counting on his core group and "batchmates" Flavier and Magsaysay, while Villar is said to be backed by his "Wednesday group" composed of Arroyo, Recto and Pangilinan. De Castro is also a member of this group of neophyte senators.

The senator said Villar could give Drilon a run for his money because Villar had more friends and supporters among the senators. Drilon's ace, however, appears to have the trust of Ms Macapagal who is confident she would win.

Unlike Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. of the ruling party Lakas-CMD seemed sure about retaining the House leadership with the President's public endorsement of his reelection.

But Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, House leader of the Nationalist People's Coalition and said to be the favorite nephew of influential businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, and Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, Liberal Party president, are expected to contest the speakership.

'Miting de avance' passe

By Christine O. Avendano

THE TRADITIONAL practice of holding a *miting de avance* to cap an election campaign may soon be a thing of the past.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said political rallies are mounted because it was a "cause to get to the news."

"The utility value to me (of political rallies) is much less today than it was say, 10 years ago," he explained. "The election campaign of 2004 has shown that it was better to buy media time and space then spend money mounting political rallies... because the exposure in media can get you more votes."

To prove his point, he cited the case of Roxas whom he said was leading in the polls for candidates and would most likely make it to the Senate because of his numerous political advertisements in television and radio.

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Second Prize
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Singapore
1 winner each for GMA, Luzon & Vis/Min

Third Prize
Trip for Two (2) to
Palawan

4th Prize
Sharp Audio-Video Showcase
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Consolation Prize
Sharp DVD Players
30 winners

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By transforming into OH groups, Plasmacluster Ions break the cell walls of harmful mold spores and reduce odor-causing molecules to harmless substances.

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1. Every purchase of a SHARP Aircon from participating dealer stores entitles you to one (1) raffle coupon.
2. To join, fill-up the raffle coupon complete with the following information: name, address, telephone number and affix signature. The dealer's name, aircon model purchased, invoice/O.R. number, and name of dealer salesman should be filled-up by the dealer salesman.
3. Drop the raffle coupon at designated dropboxes located inside the dealer store where the purchase was made.
4. Deadline for submission of entries for the Grand Raffle Draw is during store's closing hours on June 20, 2004.
5. Grand Raffle Draw shall be on July 2, 2004, 2:00PM at Sharp (Phils.) Corporation Head Office, Km. 23 West Service Road, South Superhighway, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, under the supervision of a DTI representative.

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0571, SERIES OF 2004.

Text messages to power up Namfrel count

By Clarissa S. Batino

SOME 50,000 volunteers of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections would be sending text updates of results in the May 10 elections to help complete Namfrel's quick count in less than a week.

Using the short messaging system to speed up the counting of poll results is another first not only in the country but also in the world, according to Smart Communications spokesperson Ramon Isberto. The Philippines has been acknowledged as the world's text messaging capital.

Both Smart and Globe Telecom registered billions in net income in the first quarter on the strength of their leadership in the wireless business. But the two companies would assist the Namfrel quick count for free.

Smart's parent firm, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said it would allow Namfrel to use its telecommunication facilities to help ensure speedy, secure and accurate canvassing. Namfrel volunteers would also get a free load.

Instead of faxing copies of poll returns, the volunteers would text the results released by the Commission on Elections.

Isberto said Smart would provide an access code where the volunteers can send their messages. To secure the system from hacking, a PIN or personal identification number is assigned to the volunteer sending the text.

Namfrel is a 21-year-old non-partisan voluntary organization dedicated to ensuring clean, orderly and honest elections. It had already conducted 23 operations for both national and local elections, and this year will be its 10th national exercise.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, Namfrel Chairman Jose Concepcion Jr. called on the people, the candidates, and the media to "fulfill our responsibilities to ensure that the May elections will be truly reflective of the people's will."

Clinton expresses support for GMA

FORMER US President William "Bill" Clinton has expressed support for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a one-page letter signed "Bill," Clinton expressed regret that he could not personally "swing through Manila" to demonstrate his support because of his upcoming book tour.

Clinton's letter was faxed to the office of former Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo by the former US president's policy advisor for international affairs and released to the press by the President's party.

Clinton said that it was his "honor" to have President Macapagal as his friend since they met at Georgetown University decades ago and said that he was proud of the President's "successes" as a "skilled" economist, senator, trade official and President.

"The world has clearly taken notice of your leadership. In your short time in office, you've overcome many critical challenges and seem to be making significant progress on many fronts," Clinton said.

President Macapagal is leading in all the polls going into Monday's voting and is generally seen to carry this election. She campaigned on the platform of performance.

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SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/08/04

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2004

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
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Sources from the administration camp—an incumbent senator and and an administration senatorial candidate—said the two have been wooing their fellow senators in a showdown for the Senate presidency at the opening of the 13th Congress next month.

Villar was likely to wrest the presidency from Drilon by getting the majority support, said the sources who declined to be identified.

A self-made businessman and the Speaker at the impeachment of President Joseph Estrada in 2000, Villar is rumored to run for President in the next presidential elections. Drilon, a seasoned politician, has also been regarded as presidential timber.

"We are actually in the process of choosing the Senate president," the administration K4 senatorial candidate told the INQUIRER.

He said that while the campaign period was in full swing, Drilon and Villar had been talking to the senatorial candidates who were most likely to win and join the 12 hold-over senators in the next Senate.

This was confirmed by an incumbent senator who said Villar had asked administration senatorial candidates Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Robert Barbers for their support.

Drilon and Villar have joined President Macapagal-Arroyo in some of her sorties and Drilon has been issuing statements supportive of the President. Asked who the President would endorse between her two allies in the event she wins, one source said: "The one who gives her the biggest financial support."

DRILON

VILLAR

"The Senate tradition is that the majority chooses among themselves who they would put up for Senate President. Thus, whoever gets the majority vote within the majority becomes the candidate against the minority nominee," the source said.

There are seven hold-over senators allied with the administration—Drilon, Villar, Juan Flavier, Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto, Francis Pangilinan and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., with Sen. Noli de Castro "who expects to be vice president." Senators Edgardo Angara, Luisa Ejercito, Serge Osmeña and Panfilo Lacson, a presidential candidate, are the holdovers from the opposition.

The senator said Drilon is counting on his core group and "batchmates" Flavier and Magsaysay, while Villar is said to be backed by his "Wednesday group" composed of Arroyo, Recto and Pangilinan. De Castro is also a member of this group of neophyte senators.

The senator said Villar could give Drilon a run for his money because Villar had more friends and supporters among the senators. Drilon's ace, however, appears to have the trust of Ms Macapagal who is confident she would win.

Unlike Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. of the ruling party Lakas-CMD seemed sure about retaining the House leadership with the President's public endorsement of his reelection.

But Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, House leader of the Nationalist People's Coalition and said to be the favorite nephew of influential businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, and Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, Liberal Party president, are expected to contest the speakership.

'Miting de avance' passe

By Christine O. Avendano

THE TRADITIONAL practice of holding a *miting de avance* to cap an election campaign may soon be a thing of the past.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said political rallies are mounted because it was a "cause to get to the news."

"The utility value to me (of political rallies) is much less today than it was say, 10 years ago," he explained. "The election campaign of 2004 has shown that it was better to buy media time and space then spend money mounting political rallies... because the exposure in media can get you more votes."

To prove his point, he cited the case of Roxas whom he said was leading in the polls for candidates and would most likely make it to the Senate because of his numerous political advertisements in television and radio.

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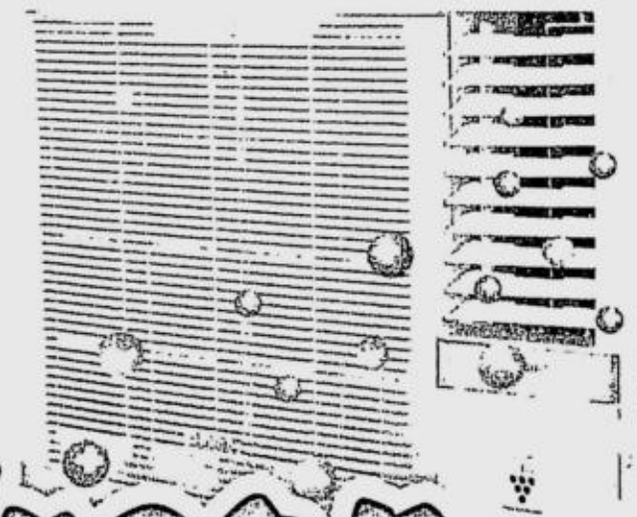

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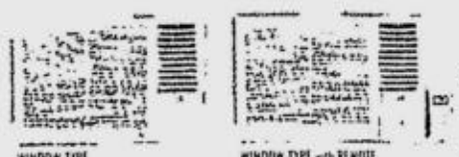

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3. Drop the raffle coupon at designated dropboxes located inside the dealer store where the purchase was made.
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Text messages to power up Namfrel count

By Clarissa S. Batino

SOME 50,000 volunteers of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections would be sending text updates of results in the May 10 elections to help complete Namfrel's quick count in less than a week.

Using the short messaging system to speed up the counting of poll results is another first not only in the country but also in the world, according to Smart Communications spokesperson Ramon Isberto. The Philippines has been acknowledged as the world's text messaging capital.

Both Smart and Globe Telecom registered billions in net income in the first quarter on the strength of their leadership in the wireless business. But the two companies would assist the Namfrel quick count for free.

Smart's parent firm, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said it would allow Namfrel to use its telecommunication facilities to help ensure speedy, secure and accurate canvassing. Namfrel volunteers would also get a free load.

Instead of faxing copies of poll returns, the volunteers would text the results released by the Commission on Elections.

Isberto said Smart would provide an access code where the volunteers can send their messages. To secure the system from hacking, a PIN or personal identification number is assigned to the volunteer sending the text.

Namfrel is a 21-year-old non-partisan voluntary organization dedicated to ensuring clean, orderly and honest elections. It had already conducted 23 operations for both national and local elections, and this year will be its 10th national exercise.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, Namfrel Chairman Jose Concepcion Jr. called on the people, the candidates, and the media to "fulfill our responsibilities to ensure that the May elections will be truly reflective of the people's will."

Clinton expresses support for GMA

FORMER US President William "Bill" Clinton has expressed support for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a one-page letter signed "Bill," Clinton expressed regret that he could not personally "swing through Manila" to demonstrate his support because of his upcoming book tour.

Clinton's letter was faxed to the office of former Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo by the former US president's policy advisor for international affairs and released to the press by the President's party.

Clinton said that it was his "honor" to have President Macapagal as his friend since they met at Georgetown University decades ago and said that he was proud of the President's "successes" as a "skilled" economist, senator trade official and President.

"The world has clearly taken notice of your leadership. In your short time in office, you've overcome many critical challenges and seem to be making significant progress on many fronts," Clinton said.

President Macapagal is leading in all the polls going into Monday's voting and is generally seen to carry this election. She campaigned on the platform of performance.

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Comelec junks six DQ cases vs GMA

By Martin P. Marfil

THE COMMISSION on Elections' first division yesterday dismissed six of the seven disqualification cases filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Comelec junked five of the cases for lack of merit while one was deemed a harassment suit.

With the dismissal of the six cases, only one case is now left pending before the Comelec. This case stemmed from allegations that Ms Macapagal violated elections laws which limit television advertisements of candidates.

Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra penned five of the decisions.

Borra said the cases were dismissed because there were no factual and legal basis for the cases and that Ms Macapagal had "immunity" under the Constitution.

"Considering that the President cannot be charged criminally while she is an incumbent, then therefore, we have to dismiss all these cases," Borra said.

The first disqualification case was filed by Pro-Con(stitution) lawyers who accused Ms Macapagal of using PhilHealth funds for her campaign.

The second case was filed by former Bureau of Land Transportation chief Mariano Santiago who said that Ms Macapagal used P1.4 billion of the road users tax for her campaign.

The third was filed by Alyansa ng Pag-Asa senatorial candidates Nicanor Gatmaytan Jr. and Olivia "Bong" Coo who had alleged that Ms Macapagal violated election laws and the Constitution when she ordered education officials to read during commencement exercises her message calling on graduating students and their parents to support a "strong and tried leadership."

The fourth case was filed by Mike Planas, an opposition candidate in Quezon City, who accused Ms Macapagal of premature campaigning after it was found that her television ads started airing before the campaign period.

The fifth and sixth cases dismissed were those filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano in connection with the Maynilad deal between Ms Macapagal and the Lopez family and allegations that Philippine Gaming Corp. funds were being used to finance her candidacy.

Yesterday, Lozano said in a statement that he would file a motion for reconsideration, saying that two cases he filed were not harassment cases.

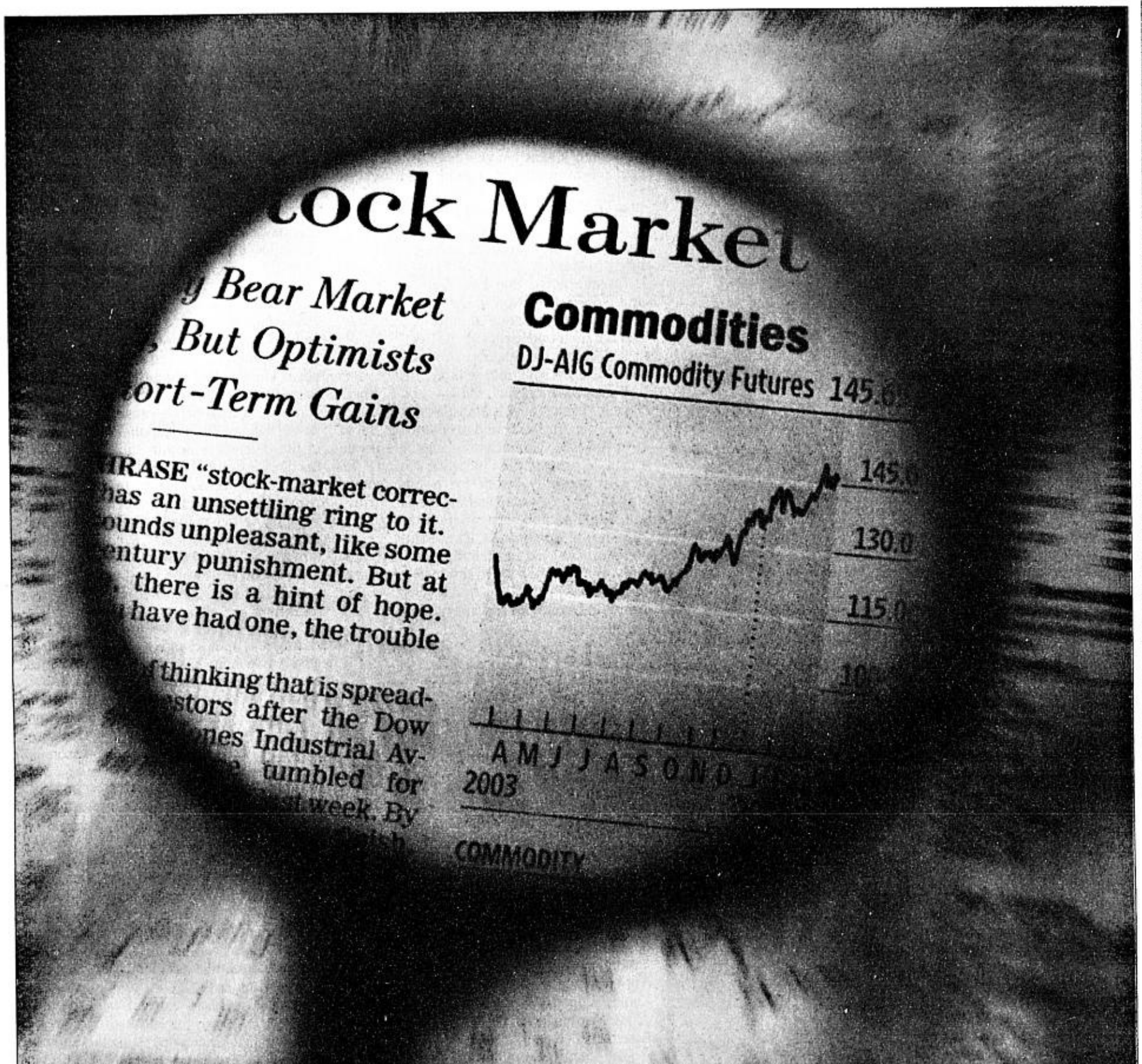
He said the Comelec did not even hold hearings on the Maynilad deal and the use of Pagcor funds.

He also said that his petitions were for disqualification, not criminal prosecution, thus, the provision on immunity does not apply.

As this developed, Alyansa ng Pag-Asa senatorial candidate Melanio "Batas" Mauricio Jr. yesterday asked the Supreme Court to immediately order an accounting of government funds as he noted that the Macapagal administration had released a total of P1 billion for alleged campaign purposes.

Mauricio asked the SC justices to direct Malacañang officials to "furnish petitioners with certified documents of the release of the P1.019 billion."

He said the money were intended for "farm inputs," but were inadvertently given to congressmen, governors and mayors as part of the campaign funds promised to them by the President. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*



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VICTORY PREDICTED

Poe camp upbeat despite INC vote loss

By Carlito Pablo

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"The winning margin projected for FPJ already takes into consideration whatever effect the endorsement by the INC and El Shaddai may have on the candidacy of Mrs. Arroyo," said former congressman Miguel Romero, spokesperson of the Poe-led Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

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KNP senatorial candidate Ernesto Maceda said the opposition is "computing an 8-10 percent erosion of that (18 percent) winning margin because of cheating operations which the (administration coalition) K-4 has started to carry out."

"Which means we will have an 8-10 percent winning margin, net of cheating," he said.

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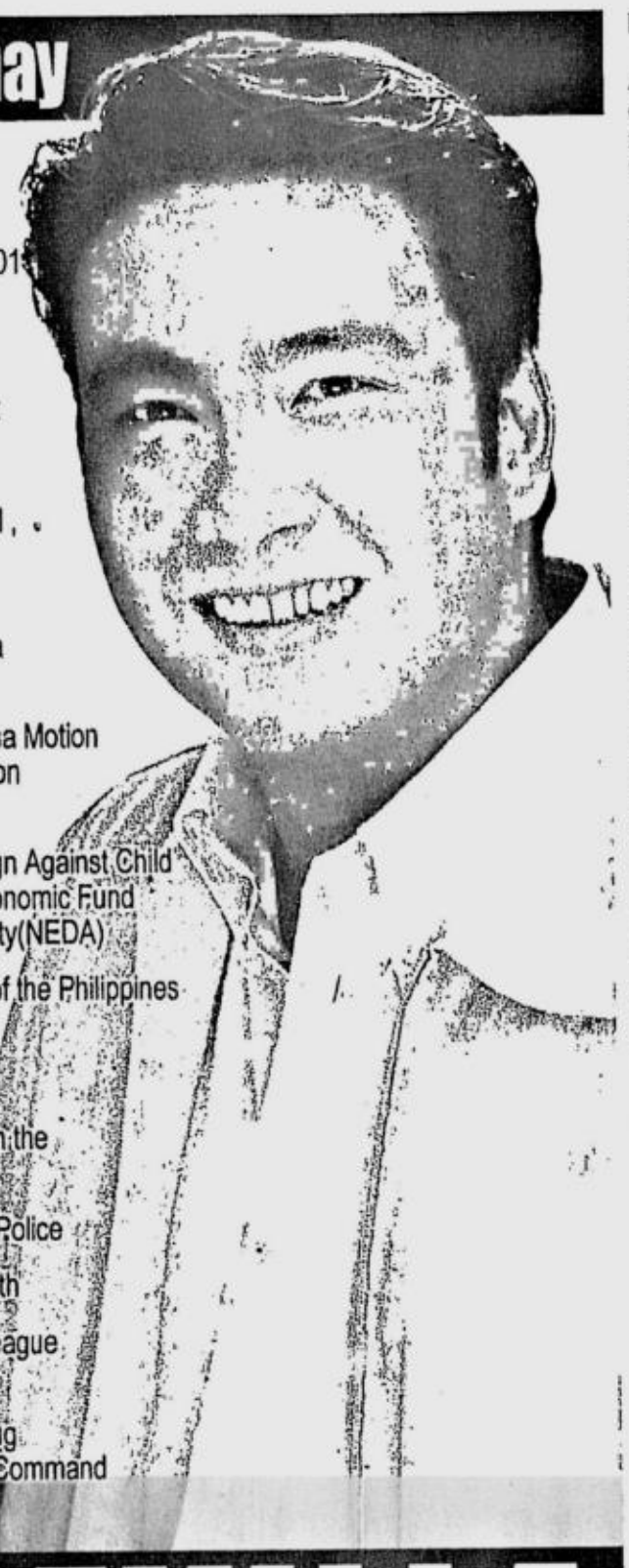
Aksyon sa Tunay na Buhay



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Strange twist in Ecleo slay case stuns NBI

By Jolene R. Bulambot and Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Bacolod family and the National Bureau of Investigation were stunned with the decision of a regional trial court judge who convicted another man as "accessory to the murder" of Alona Bacolod-Ecleo.

Parricide charges against brother-in-law Ruben Ecleo Jr. is still pending in another court.

Yesterday, Cedric Devinadera was meted four to eight years of imprisonment by Judge Idelfonso Suerte of RTC Branch 60 in Barili town, about 61 kilometers southwest of this city.

The decision was based on the "confession and admission" of Devinadera, who admitted his participation in the murder of Alona in January 2002.

Lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda, NBI director for Central Visayas, was shocked by the ruling because he found Devinadera's admission "impossible and uncorroborated."

Esmeralda said he never knew a case had been filed against Devinadera, although he had been in the custody of the NBI from December 2003 until April this year.

Devinadera allegedly helped Ben Bacolod kill his sister at about 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2002. Ben mauled and strangled Alona while Devinadera acted as a conspirator. The crime was allegedly committed within the area of Mantalongon, Dalaguete and Dumanjug towns, which falls within the jurisdiction of Judge Suerte.

The INQUIRER tried to get hold Suerte but he could not be reached for interview.

The decision shocked the Bacolods. "We never knew a case (against Devinadera) had been filed. Jaime might have been paid to (file the complaint) because he refused to leave Dinagat. This is just one of the strategies of the defense to acquit Ruben," said Ricky Bacolod, brother of Alona.

Ecleo, "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), is facing parricide charges before Judge Anacleto Caminade of the RTC Branch 18 in Cebu City for the killing of Alona.

He is currently out on bail to seek medical treatment for his supposed worsening heart condition.

Aglipayan Church, Almeda group also endorse GMA

TWO more religious groups yesterday endorsed the candidacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Monday's polls.

The latest to declare support were the Philippine Independent Church or the Aglipayan Church and the Jesus Miracle Crusade International Ministry of evangelist Wilde Almeda.

The President earlier got the support of the Iglesia ni Cristo and the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai of Bro. Mike Velarde.

Supreme Bishop Armando de la Cruz yesterday presented the resolution of the Aglipayan Church supporting and endorsing the candidacy of Ms Macapagal to Presidential Assistant for Resettlement Nestor C. Ponce Jr.

Last month, the Church's national president of the Laymen, Pepito M. Pico, personally presented to the President their manifesto of support, stressing the need to support the incumbent President in order to continue the programs she already initiated.

Pico said the manifesto was signed by leaders of the Aglipayan Church nationwide.

In expressing support for the President, Almeda noted that Ms Macapagal possesses a sincere platform of government made more workable by her experience as the country's chief executive.

"The JMCIM holds high its values of fear of God and unquestionable moral values and these we have found in the President," Almeda said.

He said that Ms Macapagal holds the key in achieving political harmony in the country.

In the 1998 elections, Almeda supported the candidacy of Speaker Jose de Venecia who was trounced in the polls by detained president Joseph Estrada.

Left-wing parties see win, hope to expand foothold in Congress

LONG-SIDELINED from mainstream Philippine politics, radical leftists are hoping to expand their foothold in Congress and transform parties full of old communist guerrillas into potential power brokers.

The prospect of a strong showing by the left-wing Bayan Muna party in Monday's elections has alarmed conservatives within the government and the military, who view communism as the No. 1 threat to democracy here.

"They've revived the anti-communist rhetoric, the old charge that the left can only win in an election by applying force," said Rep. Satur Ocampo, a former guerrilla who took one of three seats for Bayan Muna in 2001 elections under a formula that sets aside 20 percent of the House of Representatives for marginalized sectors of society, including workers and peasants.

The conservatives suspect strong links between Bayan Muna and armed communists fighting as the New People's Army in a Marxist rebellion that has killed thousands during 35 years.

Bayan Muna fuels those suspicions by staying deliberately ambiguous about its relationship with the Communist Party of the Philippines.

During three years in Congress, Ocampo and his colleagues have recorded some successes. They have initiated major bills covering wage increases and compensation for human rights victims under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. They have negotiated labor laws and co-authored legislation giving overseas workers the right to vote.

"If all goes well, this is something entirely new," Ocampo told said. "The leftists have never been a significant force in the mainstream political life, always underground as an alternative force. This is the first time we are gaining ground in the very arena of control, dominance, of political life."

But critics doubt whether the leftists are ready to work within the system rather than try to topple it. In outlying rebel-controlled areas, they still burn buses of companies that refuse to pay "revolutionary taxes" and demand money from candidates to campaign.

Ocampo, who spent nine years as a political prisoner, says his successes at the ballot box complement the rebellion.

"We do not want to say we're contrasting the armed struggle with the parliamentary struggle. In the overall context of the struggle, we are parallel movements," he said.

If the party does well on Monday, it "may even encourage and give impetus to the armed struggle, or may signal a shift to parliamentary struggle."

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales calls Bayan Muna and other leftist parties mere fronts for the communist rebels. He accused them of channeling funds allocated for community projects to the New People's Army—a charge Ocampo disputed by filing a libel lawsuit that's still pending.

Bayan Muna says its activist members are suppressed by the military or in some cases by private militias hired by powerful businesspeople and local politicians. The party claims to have lost more than 40 members to attacks and assassinations linked to the military since 2001.

Despite what Ocampo calls an atmosphere of intimidation and killings, he says Filipino voters are increasingly responding to the left's goal of undoing decades of domination by the country's elite—political dynasties and business clans protected by the military.

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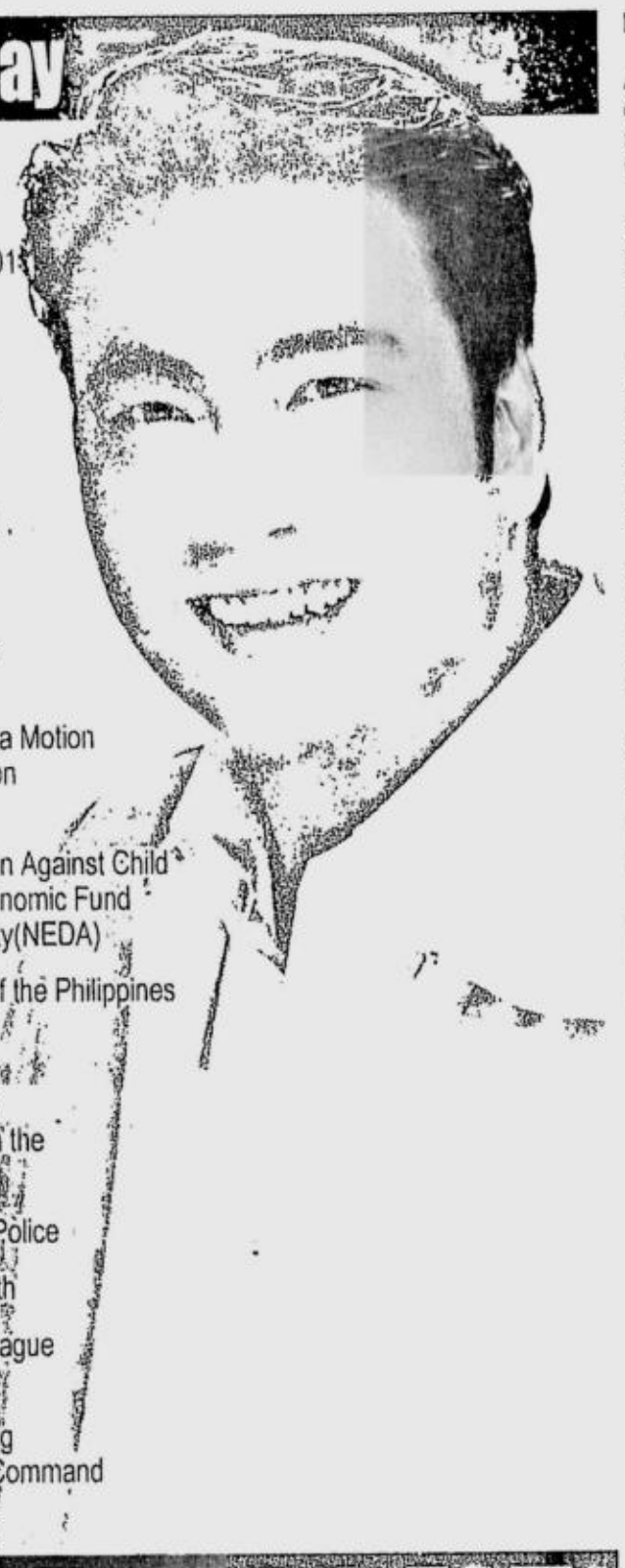

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CEBU CITY—The Bacolod family and the National Bureau of Investigation were stunned with the decision of a regional trial court judge who convicted another man as "accessory to the murder" of Alona Bacolod-Ecleo.

Parricide charges against brother-in-law Ruben Ecleo Jr. is still pending in another court.

Yesterday, Cedric Devinadera was meted four to eight years of imprisonment by Judge Idelfonso Suerte of RTC Branch 60 in Barili town, about 61 kilometers southwest of this city.

The decision was based on the "confession and admission" of Devinadera, who admitted his participation in the murder of Alona in January 2002.

Lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda, NBI director for Central Visayas, was shocked by the ruling because he found Devinadera's admission "impossible and uncorroborated."

Esmeralda said he never knew a case had been filed against Devinadera, although he had been in the custody of the NBI from December 2003 until April this year.

Devinadera allegedly helped Ben Bacolod kill his sister at about 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2002. Ben mauled and strangled Alona while Devinadera acted as a conspirator. The crime was allegedly committed within the area of Mantalongon, Dalaguete and Dumanjug towns, which falls within the jurisdiction of Judge Suerte.

The INQUIRER tried to get hold Suerte but he could not be reached for interview.

The decision shocked the Bacolods. "We never knew a case (against Devinadera) had been filed. Jaime might have been paid to (file the complaint) because he refused to leave Dinagat. This is just one of the strategies of the defense to acquit Ruben," said Ricky Bacolod, brother of Alona.

Ecleo, "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), is facing parricide charges before Judge Anacleto Caminade of the RTC Branch 18 in Cebu City for the killing of Alona.

He is currently out on bail to seek medical treatment for his supposed worsening heart condition.

Aglipayan Church, Almeda group also endorse GMA

TWO more religious groups yesterday endorsed the candidacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Monday's polls.

The latest to declare support were the Philippine Independent Church or the Aglipayan Church and the Jesus Miracle Crusade International Ministry of evangelist Wilde Almeda.

The President earlier got the support of the Iglesia ni Cristo and the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai of Bro. Mike Velarde.

Supreme Bishop Armando de la Cruz yesterday presented the resolution of the Aglipayan Church supporting and endorsing the candidacy of Ms Macapagal to Presidential Assistant for Resettlement Nestor C. Ponce Jr.

Last month, the Church's national president of the Laymen, Pepito M. Pico, personally presented to the President their manifesto of support, stressing the need to support the incumbent President in order to continue the programs she already initiated.

Pico said the manifesto was signed by leaders of the Aglipayan Church nationwide.

In expressing support for the President, Almeda noted that Ms Macapagal possesses a sincere platform of government made more workable by her experience as the country's chief executive.

"The JMCIM holds high its values of fear of God and unquestionable moral values and these we have found in the President," Almeda said.

He said that Ms Macapagal holds the key in achieving political harmony in the country.

In the 1998 elections, Almeda supported the candidacy of Speaker Jose de Venecia who was trounced in the polls by detained president Joseph Estrada.

Left-wing parties see win, hope to expand foothold in Congress

LONG-SIDELINED from mainstream Philippine politics, radical leftists are hoping to expand their foothold in Congress and transform parties full of old communist guerrillas into potential power brokers.

The prospect of a strong showing by the left-wing Bayan Muna party in Monday's elections has alarmed conservatives within the government and the military, who view communism as the No. 1 threat to democracy here.

"They've revived the anti-communist rhetoric, the old charge that the left can only win in an election by applying force," said Rep. Satur Ocampo, a former guerrilla who took one of three seats for Bayan Muna in 2001 elections under a formula that sets aside 20 percent of the House of Representatives for marginalized sectors of society, including workers and peasants.

The conservatives suspect strong links between Bayan Muna and armed communists fighting as the New People's Army in a Marxist rebellion that has killed thousands during 35 years.

Bayan Muna fuels those suspicions by staying deliberately ambiguous about its relationship with the Communist Party of the Philippines

During three years in Congress, Ocampo and his colleagues have recorded some successes. They have initiated major bills covering wage increases and compensation for human rights victims under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. They have negotiated labor laws and co-authored legislation giving overseas workers the right to vote.

"If all goes well, this is something entirely new," Ocampo told said. "The leftists have never been a significant force in the mainstream political life, always underground as an alternative force. This is the first time we are gaining ground in the very arena of control, dominance, of political life."

But critics doubt whether the leftists are ready to work within the system rather than try to topple it. In outlying rebel-controlled areas, they still burn buses of companies that refuse to pay "revolutionary taxes" and demand money from candidates to campaign.

Ocampo, who spent nine years as a political prisoner, says his successes at the ballot box complement the rebellion.

"We do not want to say we're contrasting the armed struggle with the parliamentary struggle. In the overall context of the struggle, we are parallel movements," he said.

If the party does well on Monday, it "may even encourage and give impetus to the armed struggle, or may signal a shift to parliamentary struggle."

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales calls Bayan Muna and other leftist parties mere fronts for the communist rebels. He accused them of channeling funds allocated for community projects to the New People's Army—a charge Ocampo disputed by filing a libel lawsuit that's still pending.

Bayan Muna says its activist members are suppressed by the military or in some cases by private militias hired by powerful businesspeople and local politicians. The party claims to have lost more than 40 members to attacks and assassinations linked to the military since 2001.

Despite what Ocampo calls an atmosphere of intimidation and killings, he says Filipino voters are increasingly responding to the left's goal of undoing decades of domination by the country's elite—political dynasties and business clans protected by the military.

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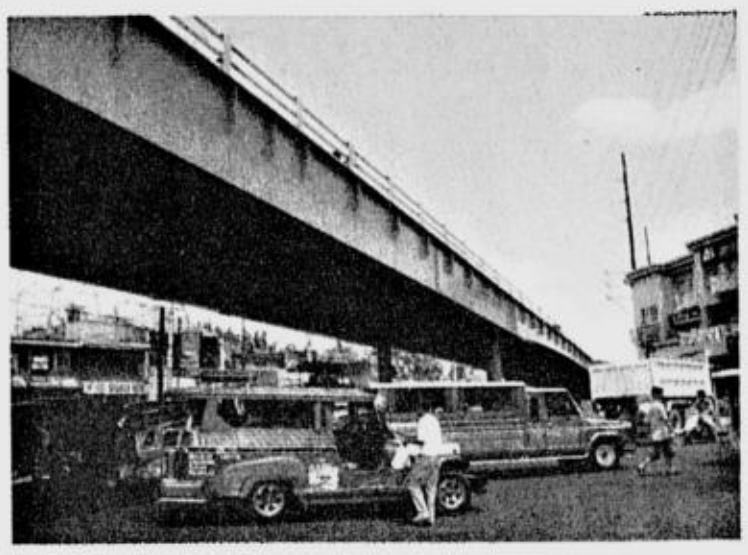

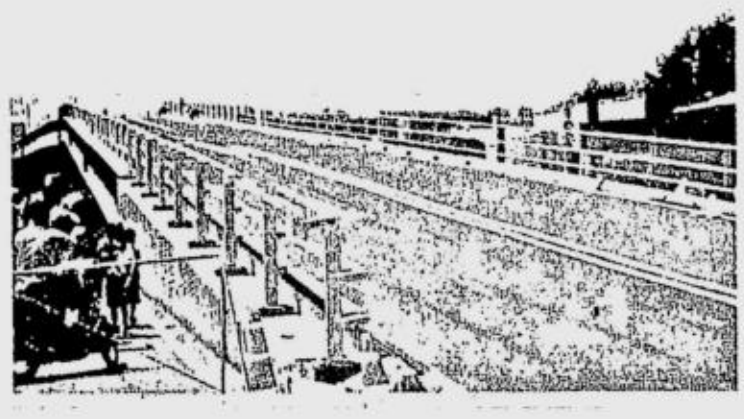

The completion of the 280 meter Malolos Flyover in a record span of 60 days is the latest accomplishment of the President's Bridge Program under the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Using world class, state-of-the-art modular steel bridging materials from the United Kingdom, the newly erected flyover solves the traffic problem in the Malolos Junction.

This infrastructure development brings new opportunities to the region in terms of trade, education and culture, and greater accessibility to government social services.

Under the President's Bridge Program, the government has successfully built over 700 Compact 200 bridges in rural communities around the country using the modular steel bridge technology provided by Mabey & Johnson. This is similar to those used in Europe, the United States, and over 100 other countries. Under the program, the use of advanced technology is being prioritized in order to expedite the construction of infrastructures that will help improve the flow of goods and services and propel economic activity in the urban areas. The system being in place, more bridges are being built stretching from Ilocos Norte to Tawi-Tawi from Palawan to Catanduanes.

THE MALOLOS FLYOVER
Facts and Figures

Length of Flyover	:	280 meters
Width of Flyover	:	7.35 meters
Load Capacity	:	HS25-44
Construction Period	:	60 Days (March 6, 2004 - May 7, 2004)
Estimated Life	:	50+ years
Implementing Agency	:	DPWH
Manufacturer/Supplier	:	Mabey & Johnson Ltd.

under the
President's Bridge Program (PBP)

undertaken by
Secretary Florante Soriquez of the
Department of Public Works
and Highways (DPWH)

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MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to our beloved kababayans from Bulacan.

This new infrastructure will certainly put an end to the perennial heavy traffic along MacArthur Highway. With this new addition to our number of flyovers, we expect not only to solve Bulacan's traffic problems but also propel economic growth not only in the province of Bulacan but also in the neighboring provinces surrounding this dynamic and historic province.

I congratulate and extend my profound gratitude to Her Majesty's Government for concessional finance, the Department of Public Works and Highways and Mabey and Johnson Ltd., for their wholehearted support to the President's Bridge Program.

Mabuhay po kayo!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

MESSAGE

I would like personally to congratulate Mabey and Johnson on their work on the Malolos Flyover due to be carried out in record time.

This state-of-the-art permanent flyover is a follow on from the quick installation (12 days) of the San Fernando Quickbridge temporary flyover in Pampanga and is a fast tracked project of the President's Bridge Program (PBP) together with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) of which over 700 Mabey Compact bridges have been erected nationwide since 1997.

These projects have contributed significantly to the development of British trading relations with the Philippines.

PAUL DIMOND
HM Ambassador
British Embassy, Manila

MESSAGE

It is with deep pleasure that I congratulate the people behind the marvelous completion of the Malolos Flyover Project.

As head of the state's engineering and construction arm, I take pride in the prompt completion of this vital infrastructure project supportive of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's traffic decongestion thrust for achieving sustainable development.

The Malolos Flyover completed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at the record speed of sixty calendar days in the heart of a fast-paced growing city will enormously benefit the nation's economic development as it will bring growth in business activities, and improve the movement of people, goods and services.

I am genuinely delighted with the milestone completion of the flyover that will now facilitate the uninterrupted flow of traffic at the once traffic-prone junction of national highway in the historic capital city of Bulacan

Utilizing new bridging technology and built on highest quality work standard not only for the people of the City of Malolos but for the entire Filipino people, this significant project under the President's Bridge Program cannot be realized without strengthened involvement and cooperation of local officials.

To those who took part on this project, my warmest congratulations. May you continue to do more for the country's development

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

FLORANTE SORIQUEZ
Acting Secretary
Department of Public Works
and Highways

MESSAGE

Malolos takes pride in this new landmark!

Aside from being the seat of the First Philippine Republic, the first in Asia, the construction of the state-of- the- art Malolos Flyover marks another first in the province's history, am added distinction that has earned and placed the city of Malolos as an economic hub in this part of the region.

On behalf of the people of Malolos, I thank President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her continued and unwavering support for all the projects and aspirations of the city and provincial government. Her leadership and genuine concern to build a strong republic has restored faith in government among our people.

I commend the combined efforts of the Department of Public Works and Highways and Mabey and Johnson Ltd.through the President's Bridge Program for their exemplary accomplishment of this project in record time for us to enjoy the benefits of a faster and more accessible highway.

As we continue to take part in building a Strong Republic, we urge our citizenry not to lose hope and to always persevere in upholding our dreams for a better tomorrow.

DANILO A. DOMINGO
City Mayor
Malolos City, Bulacan

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Don't vote, MILF rebs told

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Muslim separatist insurgents in the southern Philippines were ordered by their leaders yesterday not to take part in general elections next week.

Ghadzali Jaafar, vice chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said in a statement the group was banning its members from directly or indirectly participating in Monday's elections.

"MILF would strictly enforce its non-participation policy on Philippine elections with corresponding punishment for violators," Jaafar said.

He warned that it had intensified its monitoring system to make sure members observed the ban.

The statement made no mention of targeting the elections or deterring non-MILF members from voting.

The MILF, which commands more than 8,000 fighters, has been fighting for almost three decades for a separate Islamic state in the southern third of this largely-Roman Catholic country.

The Philippine government has signed a ceasefire with the MILF and is hoping to have a peace agreement this year to prevent the rebels' stronghold in the southern Philippines from being used as training camps by regional terrorists. *AFP*

IBOTO PARA SENADOR

ATTORNEY FRANK CHAVEZ

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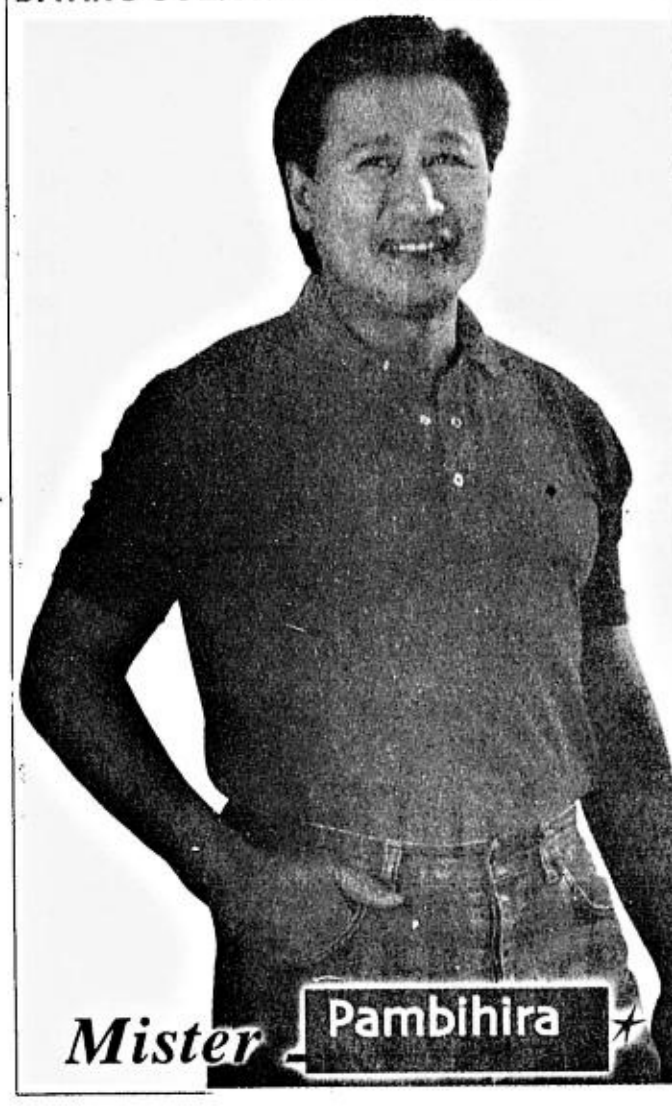

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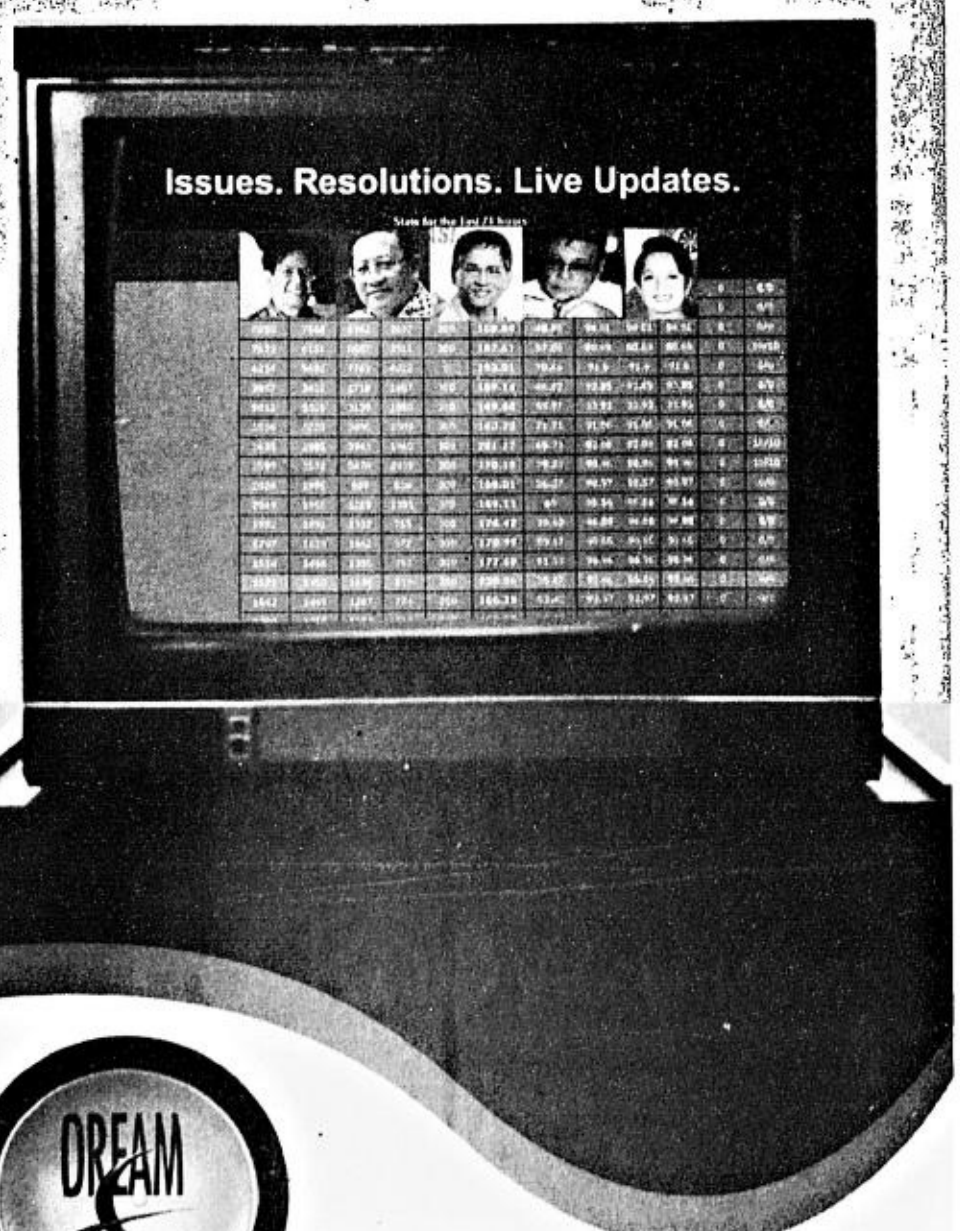

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MURDER IN PARADISE

Police zero in on 5 suspects in Boracay killings

By Christian V. Esguerra, Nelson F. Flores and Nestor P. Burgos, Jr., *PDI Visayas Bureau*

POLICE investigators are now zeroing in on five suspects in the gruesome Boracay resort murders after a key witness confessed seeing the alleged assailants leaving the victims' house shortly before their bodies were discovered.

Aklan provincial police chief Supt. Odelardo Magayanes yesterday said murder and robbery charges are now being readied against the five suspects.

"We are convinced that we got the killers," he told the INQUIRER.

But Magayanes declined to identify the suspects pending the filing of appropriate charges against them.

The family of German victim Anton Faustenhauser has offered a P100,000 reward to anyone who could identify the killers.

Quoting the witness, Magayanes said the suspects had plotted to rob and kill the 69-year-old Faustenhauser, one of the wealthiest foreign settlers in the world-famous island-resort.

The official said the suspects knew that the German kept a lot of valuables in his three-story mansion called Dolce Vita which they have constructed on top of Mount Luho at Sitio Bulabog, Barangay Balabag, an isolated area overlooking the island.

Magayanes said the witness saw the suspects leaving the mansion a few hours before Faustenhauser, his two guests, Swiss national Manfred Schoeni and Briton John Cowperthwait and Erma Sarmiento, a Filipina maid were found butchered Sunday morning.

All bore multiple stab wounds.

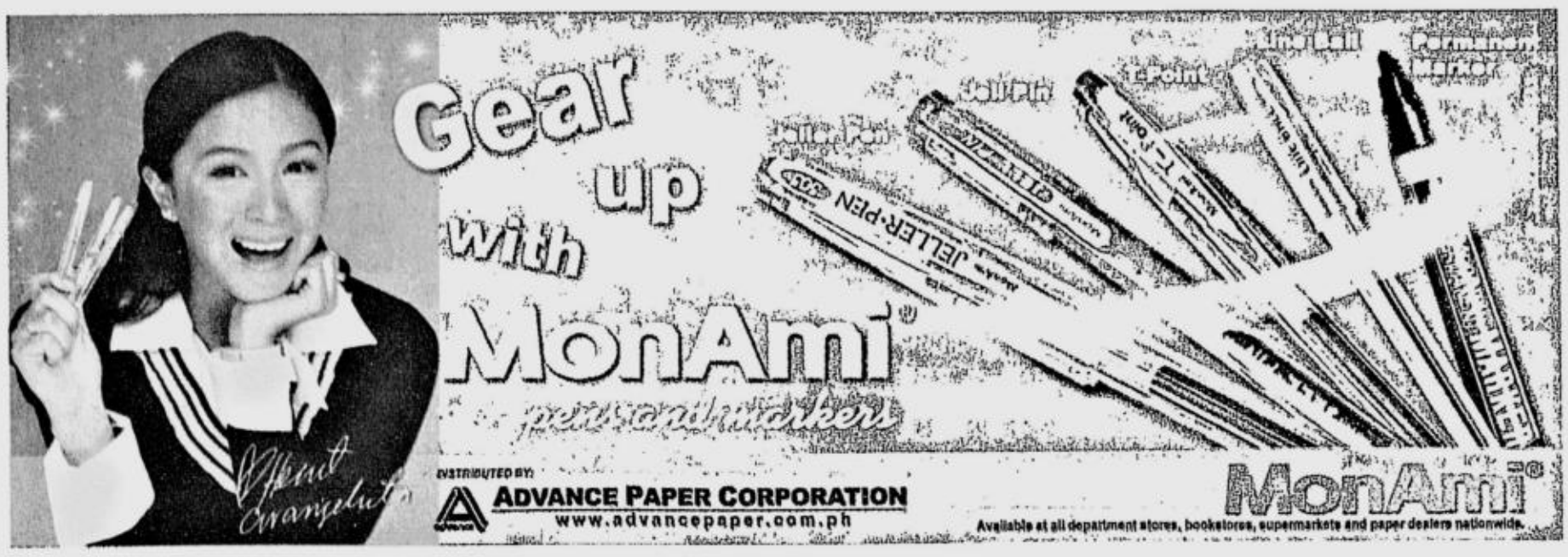
Police believe the victims were murdered in their sleep. The assailants carted away an undetermined amount of cash and some 30 personal items, including mobile phones and a digital camera.

Investigators questioned 25 workers constructing a swimming pool and other structures at Faustenhauser's property. The police later released 20 of the suspects.

Police said two suspects gave verbal testimonies linking them to the killings.

But police spokesperson Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao said the two suspects later recanted their statements.

"However, the information that they divulged gave more than enough cause for the police to make the arrests," Goltiao said.



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bush apologizes for abuses but rejects Rumsfeld sacking

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush Thursday apologized for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US soldiers as his administration resisted calls for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

But battling to quell international outrage over the treatment of prisoners and falling approval ratings at home, Bush reportedly scolded Rumsfeld for failing to inform him of the photos that unleashed the prison scandal.

Speaking after talks with King Abdullah of Jordan, Bush said: "I told him I was sorry for the humiliation suffered by the Iraqi prisoners." The US leader had stopped short of apologizing in two interviews a day earlier with Arabic television channels.

Bush said the abuse had made Americans "sick to our stomachs."

The president rejected calls for Rumsfeld to quit or be fired. "He is an important part of my Cabinet and he will stay in my cabinet," Bush said.

But he confirmed that he had rebuked Rumsfeld during a meeting Wednesday. "I told him I should have known about the pictures and the report" by the Pentagon detailing abuse at the now notorious Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad.

Pressure remains on Rumsfeld however ahead of an appearance Friday before the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he was expected to feel the full blast of Congress outrage from lawmakers who complained they were also kept in the dark.

Rumsfeld canceled a planned speech on Thursday to prepare for the appearance alongside Gen. Richard Myers, chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Meanwhile, the US House of Representatives, by a vote 365 to 50, approved a resolution deploring the abuse by US troops of prisoners detained in Iraq, saying such actions undermined US efforts to garner goodwill in Iraq and could result in a backlash against US troops.

The resolution also calls on the Pentagon to exact "swift justice" on any member of the US armed forces found to have taken part in the humiliation of Iraqi detainees, which has blown into an international scandal.

The publication of new pictures of naked Iraqi prisoners in humiliating positions in the Abu Ghraib jail added new fuel to the scandal.

Images published by The Washington Post included one of a young woman soldier holding a leash tied around the neck of a naked man.

There was also a picture of three or four men bound together in a corridor in front of cells at Abu Ghraib. Another showed a naked man handcuffed to a bed with women's underwear over his head.

The pictures were among hundreds circulated among members of the US military police and which have been seized as part of the investigation into the mistreatment.

The Arab media generally gave a frosty response to Bush's comments directed at the Arab world in Wednesday's interviews, particularly his failure to apologize.

And less than six months from the presidential election, Iraq appears to be taking a toll on Bush's personal standing.

The president, who has announced he will seek another $25 billion from Congress to pay for the Iraq campaign, saw his approval ratings fall again in another poll released Thursday.

The Gallup poll for USA Today newspaper said Bush's approval rating of 49 percent was a tie for the lowest figure of his presidency. Forty-eight percent of those asked disapproved.

Fifty-five percent disapproved of the way Bush is handling Iraq and 42 percent approved. *AFP*

ACTOR Will Ferrell, wearing a pilot's flight suit, parodies US President George W. Bush's speech one year ago stating the end of major fighting in Iraq, during "Earth to L.A. The Greatest Show on Earth," a benefit for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group in Los Angeles, May 6. REUTERS

Georgia takes control of breakaway region

BATUMI, Georgia—The new government in Georgia said late Thursday that after succeeding in bringing the breakaway region of Adjara back under Tbilisi's control, it would now seek to bring two other renegade regions back into the fold.

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili made a triumphant appearance in the Black Sea region of Adjara on Thursday after the province's leader resigned and flew into exile.

Georgian officials scheduled fresh elections for next month to choose a replacement for ousted local chieftain Aslan Abashidze and appointed an interim administration to run Adjara—the site of the region's biggest oil terminal.

"We have shown the world that we are a great people," a jubilant Saakashvili, the 36-year-old who came to power in last year's "rose revolution," said as he arrived in Adjara.

"Only we could have staged two bloodless revolutions in six months," he said.

In a symbolic gesture, Saakashvili later went on walkabout through Batumi, Adjara's capital, to the Black Sea shoreline where he splashed seawater on his face. He was surrounded by throngs of jubilant supporters chanting his nickname, "Misha!" *AFP*

WHY WE ARE NOT VOTING FOR GMA

We are a group of lawyers who can no longer tolerate the present administration.

The scandals that have riddled this government commenced within hours after it swooped to power, and have continued unabated and shameless, encompassing not only bribery and extortion in the grant of government contracts and favors, but piercing all fibers of decency and morality. GMA's three and a half years of self-aggrandizement leaves in its wake an ignominious collection of political scandals, controversial policies and executive *faux pas*, unmatched in the annals of political embarrassment.

Politicization of Judicial Appointments. We bewail, in particular, that the appointments to the judiciary have become so politicized, they are now largely a function of personal loyalty and *palakasan*. Never has any group of so-called advisers to the President been allowed to control all corridors of the judicial system, and thereby control, in a significant and most repulsive way, all other aspects of human endeavor that inevitably get intertwined with it.

Ignoring the time-honored merit system in judicial appointments, GMA has defiled the Supreme Court by naming known political associates to the highest court of the land. We do not denigrate the personal qualifications of those appointed. We however say that the President, out of delicadeza and a statesmanly recognition of the critical importance of the Supreme Court as the last bastion of democracy, should have exercised executive restraint and not succumbed to the lure of installing in it sure allies in order to gain voting advantage when matters political become matters justiciable. Lately, and without concern for judicial sensibilities, GMA recalled the press-announced appointment to the Supreme Court of a Sandiganbayan magistrate without offering any explanation whatsoever, as there was probably none other than politics, behind the recall.

The President's acts of compromising the independence of the judiciary in the name of political expediency is an affront to the legal profession and the entire judicial system.

Graft and Corruption. Think all the biggest scandals under the Arroyo administration – IMPSA, PIATCO, Jose Pidal, Diosdado Macapagal Highway, IPP, COMELEC-Megapacific, sale of SSS shares, MAYNILAD, among many others - and there is not one among them where the Malacañang connection was not dragged into. List down all government offices dealing in juicy contracts or performing revenue generating (read money making) functions, and you will not fail to hear of the intrusive influence of the Malacañang connection. All these make you suspect governance is one big wheeling and dealing, and public service an unintended by-product in this administration.

Gross Economic Mismanagement. Instead of curbing corruption, improving tax collection, taxing vested interests and exercising fiscal restraint, GMA is funding her deficit with borrowings and more borrowings. The increase in our national debt during her three years exceeds those incurred during the three (3) administrations before her. Her own Finance Secretary who quit on her warned of an Argentinian scenario for the Philippines because of our precarious debt situation. In a recent announcement to promote her candidacy, GMA promised the employees of the government a special retirement package of one and a half month's pay for every year of service, which amount she said will be financed out of an already approved loan from the World Bank. What gall. This government is decomposing on unadulterated fiscal irresponsibility.

While the government peddles self-serving statistics, foreign stock analysts have meanwhile warned investors not to invest in the Philippines because of endemic corruption and a gaping fiscal deficit. Through the short three and a half year GMA administration, the value of the Peso was repeatedly hitting a historically all time low, it was no longer history but a recurring event. GMA's attributing the Peso's devaluation to her principal rival's candidacy, and its random appreciation the past few days to her purportedly rising election surveys, is so pretentious it offends our common sense.

Greed for Power. Greed for power is consuming GMA. And our public funds as well.

There is no doubt that all of us are funding GMA's campaign. This is self-evident, a truth we do not need to belabor. But what makes this sick situation more sickening is the gumption and ostentation by which the administration does it. Amidst the indignation, the multiple electioneering charges, the utter bankruptcy we are facing on account of the Billions of Pesos being spent for her campaign, GMA is unperturbed. Absolutely unperturbed. There has been no let up in the excessive spending, not even a pretense to that effect. Every time you see the parade and orchestration of film footages and paid props depicting national disasters and destitutes juxtaposed against GMA's contrived smile and scripted empathy for the victims, remember that all of us together have paid over a Hundred Million Pesos for such paid advertisements for the period alone of January-March 2004.

Not content with, or there not being enough, money from Philhealth, PCSO, PAGCOR, DPWH, DENR, DA and other government agencies, this administration has turned to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Fund for more money to disburse illegally. Without legal authority or moral basis, the government has authorized the transfer of some P532Million from the OWWA Medicare to Philhealth, apparently to replenish Philhealth's dwindling funds. Meanwhile, it is not controverted that hundreds of OFW's with pending claims for burial, sickness and other financial assistance, have remained unpaid for several months. The act of stealing from the very Filipinos upon whom we rely for national economic survival is an irony we cannot accept. It is a betrayal of the highest order.

GMA is the Classic Trapo. Traditional politicians, or *trapos*, are power-hungry or power-drunk opportunists masquerading as champions of the Filipino cause. GMA, as the grandmother of all trapos, has succeeded in enhancing the art of trapo governance by unabashedly directing all her energies, political power, and resources of government less towards meeting the simple demand for every Filipino for a decent life, but more towards assuring herself of another six years of unwanted leadership.

The pattern of GMA's political woes and shortcomings is clear. The unifying thread is the May 10, 2004 event. She is a full-blooded trapo whose main concern now is to hold on to political power and enjoy with her minions its perks and privileges, at the expense of good governance.

For the love of this country and our children, we are definitely not voting for GMA.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

'Bin Laden' offers gold for heads of Annan, Bremer

DUBAI—A recording described as the voice of Osama bin Laden, posted on the Internet on Thursday, offered bounties in gold to anyone who kills US Iraq administrator Paul Bremer or UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

BIN LADEN

The recording on an Islamist Web site said a prize of 10 kg in gold would also be given to anyone who killed other officials including Bremer's deputy and UN envoy to Iraq Lakhdar Brahimi. The reward would be worth around $125,000 at current gold prices.

The voice in the recording called for a jihad, or holy war, against the US-led occupation of Iraq, Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council and whoever cooperates with them.

"We in al-Qaida organization are committed to a prize of 10,000 grams of gold to whoever kills Bremer, his deputy, the commander of American forces or his deputy in Iraq," said the voice.

The pro-al-Qaida site captioned the recording: "O people of Iraq! A message by Sheikh Osama bin Laden, may God protect him."

The voice sounded like the al-Qaida leader's, but its authenticity could not be immediately verified. The CIA was studying the recording to decide on its authenticity, a CIA spokesperson in Washington said.

It blasted the United Nations as a tool of "Crusaders"—a reference to the US-led coalition in Iraq—and accused it of handing Palestinian lands to Zionists.

"Whoever kills Kofi Annan or the head of his delegation to Iraq or his representatives, such as Lakhdar Brahimi, will receive the same prize," said the voice, addressing the Iraqi people.

Brahimi is in Baghdad for talks on forming an interim Iraqi government before the US handover of sovereignty at the end of June.

The voice offered a kilogram of gold to anyone who killed a soldier or civilian from countries which are "possessors of the veto such as the Americans or Britons."

The United States and Britain have veto powers as permanent members of the UN Security Council. The tape did not name the other three permanent members—France, Russia and China.

The recording offered 500 grams of gold for the killing of nationals of US allies, such as Japanese or Italians. *Reuters*

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★ International Award of Honor Awardee (conferred by the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers' Association of New York)

Founding Chairman, Citizens' DrugWatch Foundation Inc.
★ Convenor, Network Against the Sexual Abuse of Children

* In the Senate, Herrera became the first official of the land to declare "a just war" against drugs. He jolted a nation by unmasking big-time druglords in a series of speeches. At least 51 druglords exposed by Herrera were either captured (and convicted in court) or killed in subsequent encounters with law enforcement agents. To date, the record remains unmatched by any public official, whether in or outside the Senate

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Oregon lawyer linked to Madrid train bombings, is arrested

PORTLAND, Oregon—An American was arrested as a material witness in the deadly train bombings in Madrid, Spain, federal authorities said.

Brandon Mayfield, a lawyer and former Army officer, was taken into custody Thursday by FBI agents, who also searched his home in the Portland suburb of Aloha.

It was the first known arrest in the United States with connections to the March 11 terrorist attacks, which killed 191 people and injured 2,000 others.

Mayfield, 37, was arrested on a material witness warrant and has not been charged with any crime, according to a senior law enforcement official in Washington D.C., speaking on condition of anonymity. A material witness warrant allows the government to hold people suspected of having direct knowledge about a crime or to allow time for further investigation into the witness.

Mayfield's fingerprints were found on materials related to the Madrid bombings, said a second senior law enforcement official, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

Beth Anne Steele, a spokesperson for the FBI in Portland, confirmed two search warrants had been served Thursday in Washington County, which includes Aloha. She would not release further details.

Mayfield passed the Oregon bar in 2000 and largely kept a low profile in the Portland legal community until 2002, when he volunteered to represent Muslim terrorism suspect Jeffrey Battle in a child custody case.

Battle was among six Portland area residents who were sentenced last year on charges of conspiring to wage war against the United States by helping al-Qaida and the former Taliban rulers of Afghanistan. *AP*

A 75-YEAR-OLD woman shows her machete wounds in Yelwa town in central Nigeria, May 6. A Muslim community leader in the Nigerian town of Yelwa said on Thursday 630 corpses had been buried after an attack by Christian militia on Sunday. REUTERS

Deaths in Nigeria attack reach 630

YELWA, Nigeria—Sectarian tensions were on the rise in central Nigeria on Thursday as a Nigerian Red Cross team confirmed that 630 people had been killed when Christian ethnic militiamen attacked a mainly Muslim town.

Rescuers and reporters found a fresh 50-by-10-meter burial plot behind a traditional chief's house in Yelwa, a rural community in a strife-torn region of central Nigeria which was attacked late Sunday by heavily armed militants.

"We buried over 630 people. Some people were buried in their backyards. They just attacked us because we are Muslims," said Yakubu Haruna, Yelwa's 35-year-old local councilor, to general agreement from onlookers.

"The figure is correct. All the bodies were gathered at the traditional leader's house and then were buried behind it," Umar Abdu Mamairiga, the Nigerian Red Cross' national disaster management officer, said.

"They are talking about 630, but there might be more given the number of wounded," he added. A previous official toll for the fighting had been 67, and a police officer at the scene played down the local people's claims.

It was clear that whatever the final toll, something terrible had happened in Yelwa late on Sunday when it was stormed by gunmen from the Tarok ethnic group, the Christian rivals of the town's mainly Muslim residents.

Ten fresh plots, still stinking of recent deaths, lay side-by-side in a walled compound, overshadowed by a water tower behind the chief's house that serves as a meeting place in Yelwa, a mainly Muslim market town.

In the streets lay spent 7.62 millimeter cartridge cases of the kind used in Kalashnikov assault rifles, which Yelwa residents said were used by the gang.

Large numbers of heavily armed police have now been drafted into the area, but Thursday was the first day that Red Cross rescue officials could safely visit. The were immediately called upon to treat the wounded.

Among the dozens of young men that queued to see their bullet and machete wounds bandaged were a baby that had been shot through the foot and another with its jaw smashed. Houses and an old mosque were burned out.

"This attack was supposed to be the last one, they wanted to finish us all," said Abdullahi Abdullahi, a 50-year-old member of Yelwa's council of elders.

For the past three years, the southern region of central Nigeria's Plateau State, 300 km east of Abuja, has been prey to ethnic and sectarian warfare between rival claimants to patches of fertile land. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Vatican defrocks 2 priests

BOSTON—The Vatican has defrocked an accused American pedophile priest, Paul Shanley, a central figure in the clergy sexual abuse scandal that rocked the Archdiocese of Boston. The Archdiocese said on Thursday the Vatican had relieved Shanley of his duties as a priest effective Feb. 19. Another accused pedophile priest from the Boston archdiocese, Ronald Paquin, was also defrocked, the archdiocese said. "They are no longer to be referred to as a priest nor to exercise sacramental ministry as they do not have the faculties of the Church," the archdiocese said in a statement. *Reuters*

'AIDS plot' in Libya

TRIPOLI—A Libyan court Thursday sentenced five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor to death for deliberately spreading AIDS in a children's hospital, sparking fierce reactions to a verdict that could damage Libya's improving ties with the West. The accused were convicted of having deliberately infected more than 400 children with the HIV virus that can lead to AIDS, of whom 43 have since died, by injecting them with tainted blood products. A copy of the verdict on Thursday also showed they have been ordered to pay a total of $1 million in compensation to the families of the victims. Both Bulgaria and the United States, which recently lifted economic sanctions against Tripoli after more than 20 years, condemned the verdict as "unacceptable." *AFP*

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SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

In recent weeks, the leadership of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) has been viciously attacked by parties with varied agenda using even church-based facilities as platforms. As a consequence, mass media reports and spins the same.

The accusations hurled are old and rehashed, patently UNTRUE or in some cases, to be kind, HALF-TRUTHS meant to do nothing else but reinforce a carefully designed, negative political campaign of the opposition in futile attempts to stem the President's momentum.

For the record, hereunder are the allegations and the truth, placed side-by-side so the public may know, and judge, what the facts really are:

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"Despite its record winnings, PAGCOR owes P1.7 billion to financial institutions like PNB and Land Bank of the Philippines."	PAGCOR, by limitations of its Charter does not have "retained earnings". All of its monthly winnings are pre-allocated by law to different designated entities. Some of its leasehold improvements and capital expenditures are thus funded by borrowings from government banks, which earn interest from PAGCOR. This interest expense from PAGCOR reverts back to the government. Borrowing to finance improvements and equipment has been a business practice inherited by the present board from its predecessors, and continued, to maintain business stability. In fact, the new administration had to service P565 million that was left behind by the previous management. The additional loan involves the construction of the CF-Tagaytay and CF-Angeles branches which were initiated by the previous PAGCOR administration.
"Members of the PAGCOR Board who serve for at least one year can avail themselves of a retirement pay at a flat rate of P7 million."	The retirement pay of ALL PAGCOR employees, from the lowest Pay Class to the highest, was adjusted for the first time in 15 years. The Directors' retirement pay was adjusted in relation to the highest ranking regular position. Under the plan, Directors will be entitled to an average of P1.26 million per year served, much lower than the alleged P7 million. (Up to now we are at a loss on how that atrocious figure was arrived at.) This rate is competitive, if not at par, with other similar government financial institutions.
"PAGCOR spent P68 million for President Arroyo's campaign which went to the purchase of 50 Ford Ranger pick-ups, motorcycles with sidecars, and truncheons for Barangay Tanods."	**PAGCOR bought a total of only six (6) Ford Ranger pick-ups and not 50 as alleged. These units were purchased as early as 2002 and are used by our Community Relations Department.** Requests for motorcycles with sidecars and truncheons for Barangay Tanods are received, processed and acted upon if found meritorious – irrespective of political affiliations of the requesting party – as part of PAGCOR's on going "Sulong Barangay" community relations outreach program. This project has been in effect since 2001 and includes other components such as livelihood and peace and order related programs for barangays all over the country. This is PAGCOR's job, to help out communities where it can regardless of political affiliations.
"PAGCOR bought over 100 new vehicles worth over P120 million."	From 2001 to February 2004, PAGCOR may have bought that many vehicles. **BUT this includes fleet replacement of service vehicles AND cars bought under the company's Executive Car Plan program paid for by the executives themselves under an easy-pay amortization plan using its Provident Fund!** (It is patently misleading if not outright lying to lump all vehicle purchases together and make it look like a wholesale car acquisition.)
"PAGCOR is mismanaged and wracked with anomalies."	Before the present administration assumed office, PAGCOR's income was only P14.61 billion. In 2001, the gaming firm's income grew to P17.46 billion and ballooned further to a record-setting P20.21 billion in 2002. **That same year, PAGCOR was adjudged by the Securities and Exchange Commission as the No. 1 profit earner among all corporations in the Philippines.** For the first quarter of 2004, PAGCOR's income is at an "all-time quarterly high" of P5.41 billion. These numbers are of public knowledge, audited by the Commission on Audit and published in leading newspapers.
"PAGCOR circumvented President Arroyo's order to stop the opening of slot machine arcades."	The President directed PAGCOR to cease its project at that time, which was the opening of slot machine arcades in various shopping malls. PAGCOR fully complied with this order and aborted this project to ensure its inaccessibility to the general public. PAGCOR's modest expansion of its operations, which is within bounds of its Charter, is restricted to hotels in known tourist areas.
"PAGCOR has violated its Charter by entering into joint ventures with private investors in the operation of slot machine arcades."	The PAGCOR Charter (PD 1869) prohibits the corporation from granting franchises to outside parties. PAGCOR has entered into lease contracts, not joint ventures, with lessors in the operation of exclusive, Casino Filipino VIP Clubs.
"The 60-40 income sharing agreement with private investors is disadvantageous to the government because 40 percent provided to the lessor is excessive. The cost of new slot machines and lease improvements can be recovered in full within three years."	**This lease arrangement is purely a business decision. It is risk-free for the government because PAGCOR does not shell out a single centavo. Furthermore, all lease contracts have an exit clause in case a court of law finds the agreement disadvantageous to the government.** The 38 percent (net of franchise tax) payment is for the lease of a complete, fully-furnished, fully-equipped, fitted-out Casino Filipino VIP Club. All capital expenditures – construction, furnishing and maintenance of the facility as well as the procurement of high-tech computerized gaming machines – are shouldered by the lessors. Slot machines cost about US$10,000 to $12,000 each and quickly become obsolete in less than a year. These state-of-the-art machines utilize a "tokenless" card-based system, and are connected through an integrated network. This agreement is in line with advisories stated in the 2002 General Appropriations Act which enjoins all government agencies to lease IT and IT-linked equipment in line with the existing policy to scale down expenditures.
"The government's income share in the operation of the slot machine arcades is compromised because of the 60-40 income sharing agreement scheme."	The franchise tax remitted to the BIR is 5% of total winnings. Under the law, only PAGCOR's earnings are to be distributed to its legally-mandated beneficiaries. The 38 percent (net of franchise tax) is not part of PAGCOR's earnings as it is lease payment to the lessors. For its part, the lessors are taxed by the BIR for Value-Added Tax and other appropriate corporate taxes.
"The agreement between PAGCOR and the private investors is disadvantageous to the government and is, therefore, illegal."	PAGCOR's lease arrangement has been duly reviewed and approved by the PAGCOR's own Corporate Legal Services Department, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), Commission on Audit, and the Department of Justice. In fact, income derived through this method has already generated an additional P200 million in revenues which would not have been possible under the old business plan.
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"A contract for the supply of Figaro coffee worth P1 million daily has been awarded to siblings or children of PAGCOR President and Chief Operating Officer Rafael Butch Francisco."	False. PAGCOR President and COO Rafael Butch Francisco only has one child, who is only 14 years old and therefore cannot be allowed to own a business. Neither are his relatives involved with any Figaro concession. As a concessionaire, Figaro rents space in some of our casino branches. PAGCOR only provides complimentary coffee to VIP players. The P1 million worth of supply of coffee per day is, therefore, grossly exaggerated.
"PAGCOR has entered into a joint venture agreement with Stanley Ho."	PAGCOR has never dealt with Stanley Ho.

These are verifiable facts and PAGCOR is willing to sit down with interested parties to shed further light into its business conduct. We stand by our record, and humbly submit that the record speaks for itself.

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"A contract for the supply of Figaro coffee worth P1 million daily has been awarded to siblings or children of PAGCOR President and Chief Operating Officer Rafael Butch Francisco."	False. PAGCOR President and COO Rafael Butch Francisco only has one child, who is only 14 years old and therefore cannot be allowed to own a business. Neither are his relatives involved with any Figaro concession. As a concessionaire, Figaro rents space in some of our casino branches. PAGCOR only provides complimentary coffee to VIP players. The P1 million worth of supply of coffee per day is, therefore, grossly exaggerated.
"PAGCOR has entered into a joint venture agreement with Stanley Ho."	PAGCOR has never dealt with Stanley Ho.

These are verifiable facts and PAGCOR is willing to sit down with interested parties to shed further light into its business conduct. We stand by our record, and humbly submit that the record speaks for itself.

PAGCOR

PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION

A global corporation with a global mindset and a Filipino heart

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Growing together for a brighter future

Like any industry, the pre-need industry is continually changing. Now, competition is faced not only from other pre-need companies but from other financial service industries such as mutual funds, insurance companies and banks. Regulations were lax before, but now, the market is highly regulated. Before, interests rates were higher; now they are much lower. With such changes, former strategies may no longer apply.

In the face of these developments, Prudentialife President Jose Alberto T. Alba shared several traits of successful companies who have managed change with great results.

"To succeed, those who manage a pre-need company must have an open mind. Opportunities may present themselves but may be missed if management becomes too fixated and preoccupied to see them. Managers must continually watch for trends. They must learn to take advantage of them, but at the same time avoid depending on them too much. The trick is to know when to capitalize, and when to let go," Alba advised Prudentialife Sales Olympics Champions and delegates in the recent Prudentialakbay 2004 held in Baguio City.

A successful pre-need company must also constantly think of their future and work to attain it. Successful companies, even in other fields and markets, have long range planning. If they can see it coming, they can set the foundations to make it reality.

"In order to create this bright future we want for ourselves, we have to continue to grow and develop," adds Alba. Prudentialife is continually offering new products designed so that it remains competitive in today's market. During the past two years, the company introduced three new products; the Flexi-Life Plan, Fund Secure Plan and the Silver Fund Saver. This year, Prudentialife is launching even more new products to serve the Filipino family better. Education plans, wealth-building schemes and other financial service products. The challenge now is to fully understand how these products can work to building the future of planholders, and how Prudentialife can bring them to more families in the country.

No matter how difficult the economy is, Prudentialife will continue to serve the needs of the Filipino. As the leading Filipino pre-need company, they are one in keeping the Kapamilya spirit alive, growing together with their planholders to create a better future.

Why We Serve: A word from the President

Just like a steady, sure and strong mountaineer, we have had a good climb. But the path has not always been level and smooth.

We weather both the rough and the good. We see downturns and consider them as opportunities to get higher. We see risks ahead and minimize them.

The great Sir Edmund Hillary, conqueror of Mount Everest, was once asked, "Why did you climb this mountain?"

His reply was, "Because it is there."

We ask ourselves, why are we committed to provide quality service to every Filipino family? Our answer is not much different.

We serve because the Filipino family is there. Deep within each Prudentialife Kapamilya, is the heart and hand that cares.

Jose Alberto T. Alba
Prudentialife President

New Prudentialife Products

PowerEd Persona
A 2-year education plan that gives you more value for your money. It is designed to enhance skills and knowledge with a post-graduate degree, additional units or courses you've always dreamed of taking. It can also be given as a gift to any of your loved ones for their elementary, high school or college education.

Fund Secure
A fixed-value pension plan without forfeiture or cancellation. At only 16 pesos a day, it's one of the most affordable plans available.

Silver Fund Saver
A unique savings program that you can use in the future to start a business, enjoy a hobby or just settle down and relax upon retirement.

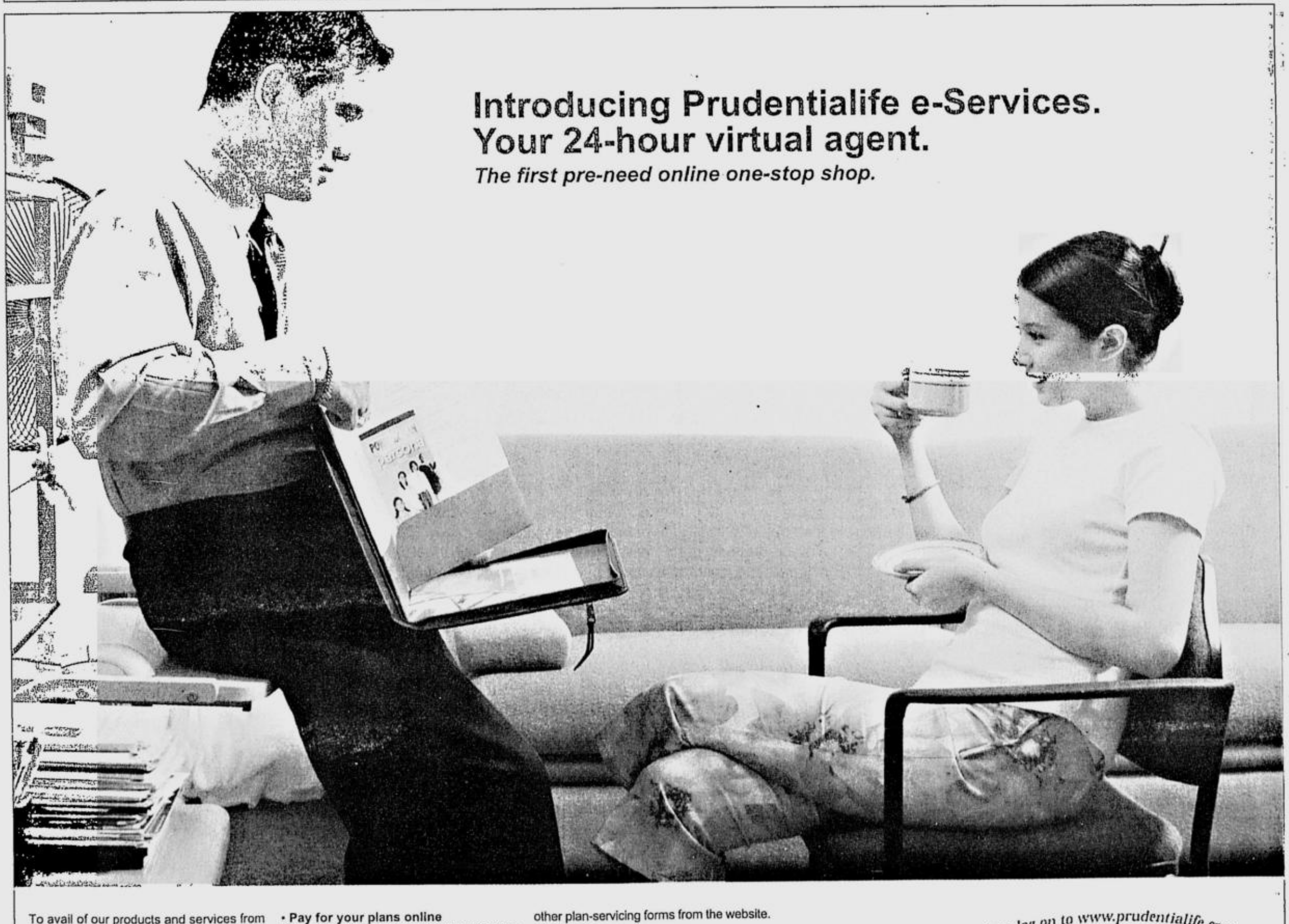
Flexi Plan
A fixed-value life plan that guarantees funds and professional administration of memorial services at the time of need.

Prudentialife goes digital with SMS, Internet services

Prudentialife recently launched it's **Prudentialife Infotext Service**, the first Short Messaging Service (SMS) project in the pre-need industry. This innovation will improve service greatly by providing valuable information to both customers and Prudentialife employees anytime, anywhere. Through their mobile phones, planholders can inquire about their plan and payment details by just texting PLPI to 0917-819PLPI or 0918-979PLPI.

Prudentialife also scores another first with **Prudentialife e-Services**. Now, planholders can access information and pay for their installments online at **www.prudentialife.com**, the first online one-stop pre-need shop. New customers can also apply for new plans without ever leaving their home or office.

These bold ventures into new tools of communication and information show the dedication and drive of Prudentialife to better bring its products and services to the Filipino family.



Introducing Prudentialife e-Services. Your 24-hour virtual agent.

The first pre-need online one-stop shop.

To avail of our products and services from your home or office, at any time of the day, just log on to ***www.prudentialife.com***

• Buying a pre-need plan
New clients can browse the site for information on Prudentialife products and services, and even buy a pre-need plan.

• View billing statements
Never lose billing statements ever again with our e-Billing service. Your statements will be sent via e-mail a week before the payment due date. You can view and print out your past billing statements at your convenience.

• Pay for your plans online
Planholders can now pay their succeeding installments online with VISA, Mastercard and JCB credit cards. They may also opt to pay for a particular billing period and enroll their card in the Auto-Charge Arrangement facility. Planholders can also report payments made through other channels such as banks and remittance centers for faster reconciliation.

• Download enrollment and other plan-servicing forms
If you can't come personally to any of the Prudentialife branches, you can now download forms to avail of benefits, and other plan-servicing forms from the website.

• 24-hour access to information and services
Details such as contract price, contract date, payment term, mode and other information can now be accessed by planholders at their convenience.

Build the good life online with Prudentialife e-Services.

To avail of our e-Services, log on to www.prudentialife.com

26th Year

Prudentialife
Trust Prudentialife with your dreams

Prudential Life Plan Building 118 Gamboa St Legaspi Village
1229 Makati City Philippines Prudentialife Direct (632) 864-8000
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When we started Prudentialife 26 years ago, we recognized a need that is certain to happen in the future. We wanted every Filipino family to feel secure about their needs. But we also realized that entrusting something as valuable as their future to someone else is not easy.

That's why our company has always been guided by the principles of work and prayer. This enabled us to earn the wholehearted trust of millions of Filipinos through the loyalty and dedication of our staff, employees and sales associates nationwide.

Today, we renew our commitment to serve others. We thank everyone who has contributed to the growth and stability of Prudentialife as we pray for God's continued blessings in the years ahead.

Ambassador Francisco A. Alba
Prudentialife Founder

We Remember...

In 1978, a few good men had a vision of serving the Filipino family by helping them prepare for a better future. Prudentialife began as a pre-need company led by its founder, Ambassador Francisco A. Alba. Through the years, Prudentialife has kept with many challenges by offering life, pension and education plans. It has diversified into financial services, memorialization, real estate, travel and leisure and information technology. Prudentialife has become an icon of true and dedicated service, and stands as the number one Filipino pre-need company in the country today.

In 1978, the vision to secure the good life for the Filipino family began.

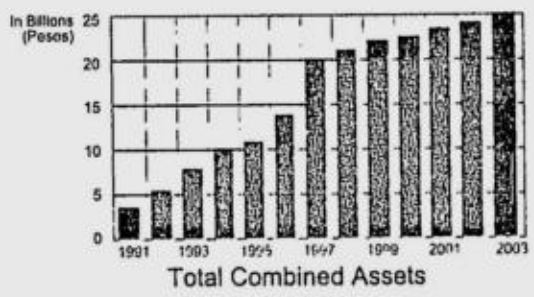
2004: Prudentialife's commitment to serve continues under the leadership of its founder (left) and president, Jose Alberto T. Alba (right) in photo with Pope John Paul II.

Backed by a professional management team and employees, Prudentialife keeps the trust of every Filipino family.

Thank you for your trust in us.

We Celebrate...

Prudentialife looks back with pride at its 26 years of nurturing the lives of the Filipino family as it celebrates its success, growth and stability. On its banner year in 2003, Prudentialife's trust fund reached P10 billion. At the same time, Prudentialife became bigger and stronger with over P25 billion in assets, more than 1,000 employees and about 30,000 sales associates nationwide.



Total Combined Assets

Trust Fund Growth

Prudentialife planholders, employees, staff and sales associates will surely continue to grow together to secure the good life for the Filipino family.

We Share...

Prudentialife has always placed a premium in sharing its blessings with the less privileged sectors of society through the Prudentialife Foundation, Inc. It has supported religious and socio-civic programs by selecting beneficiaries to celebrate its annual Foundation Day.

This year, Prudentialife has chosen GAWAD KALINGA to be its partner in providing decent housing for the poorest of the poor. Together, they will transform a part of the Baseco slum areas into a peaceful and productive model community.

GAWAD KALINGA is pioneered by Couples for Christ, building decent houses, a clean environment where the needs of the poor for health, education and livelihood are addressed.

We Thank...

We thank all our employees, salesforce, planholders and the general public for their support and trust in Prudentialife. The Prudentialife Kapamilya will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass at the Parish of St. John Mary Vianney at Narra St., Brgy. Cembo, Makati City, its 26th Foundation beneficiary.

MESSAGE

I greet the management and staff of Prudentialife on your 26th Anniversary!

You have a very important role in the Church and society. In today's way of life, we need to help one another through our respective talents and professions. In order for our country to move on, we must get our acts together and be selfless in love and service. I believe this is also the vision of your company. For the past several years, you have offered your services to our countrymen in this spirit. In spite of the present difficulties, you continue to endure to contribute to our nation's growth. May the coming years inspire you more to be committed and altruistic. May your work be a pleasing offering to God!

Happy 26th anniversary!

God bless you always!

+ GAUDENCIO B. ROSALES, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

26th Year

Prudentialife

Trust Prudentialife with your dreams

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Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
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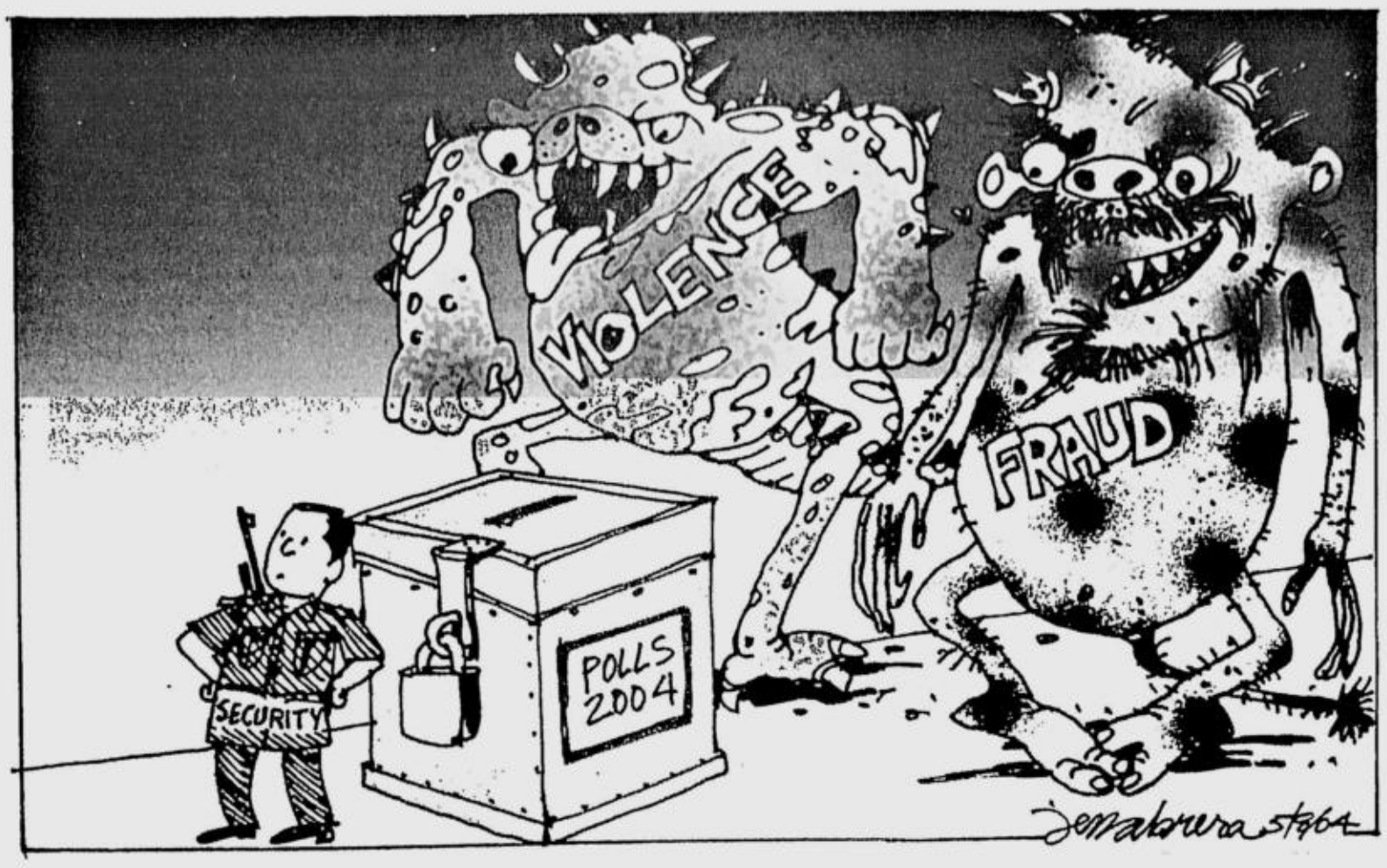


Confused?

EDITORIAL

THE COMMISSION on Elections is courting more controversy and risking more turmoil by its insistence on conducting an election quick count. There are many reasons against the quick count, but it is as much a sign of Comelec intransigence as well as its stupidity that it is trying to push through with the count over the objections of every political party and various political leaders as well as the National Movement for Free Elections.

The foremost reason against the plan is essential, one that strikes at the heart of the constitutional mandate of the Comelec. The Comelec is supposed to conduct the election and dutifully count the votes. Doing a parallel quick count is not its job. At the very least, it will detract the Comelec from doing its constitutional job with efficiency, accuracy and dispatch.

But it seems the Comelec is confused about its mandate. No instance reflects this more as when Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos was forced to admit, after making several pronouncements that the quick count would report the vote from the President down, that the count after all would be limited to the Senate race. This was after several lawmakers complained that with the quick count, the Comelec would be usurping the constitutional power of Congress to proclaim the president and the vice president. "We are under the constraints of the law, we are not supposed to publish (the presidential and vice-presidential elections) results," Abalos admitted. It is shocking that Abalos, a former judge, seemed not to have known in the first place that there is a constitutional issue against the quick count.

The next important reason why the Comelec should not pursue the quick count is practical: it simply has its hands full conducting the synchronized elections and making sure the results reflect the will of the people.

There's simply no basis for the quick count. Namfrel is doing it, using its own resources and manpower, staffed mainly by volunteer professionals. A quick count is basically there to prevent a void in electoral reporting that is critical after the voting precincts close. Since Namfrel and other groups have more or less established a modicum of credibility in conducting the quick count, it behooves the Comelec to stay out of it.

More important, the quick count is conducted by electoral monitors exactly as a parallel count to the Comelec's own tally. In short, it is basically corrective and critical. It is meant as a check to the possibility that the Comelec might not be counting the votes right. We must remember that Namfrel instituted the quick count in the 1986 election when the Comelec was perceived—and rightly so—as biased for the strongman Ferdinand Marcos and would count the vote always in his favor. The count somehow checked a blatant distortion by the Comelec then of the democratic and sovereign will of the people.

These arguments have been raised again and again, but the Comelec under Abalos has lent a deaf ear to them. As early as January, for example, former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod had discouraged the Comelec from pushing ahead with the count, saying it would only "constitute additional burden . . . and push the limits of the capability of the Comelec."

Moreover, the machines that will be used for the quick count are the same machines that were purchased by the Comelec from a bidding that had been rejected by the Supreme Court. As Sen. Edgardo Angara said in January, "The electronic transmission (through quick count) is part and parcel of the election automation program but this has already been thrown out by the Supreme Court."

Abalos has already botched the multimillion computerized election system, and here he is wasting public funds anew on a dubious quick count. With the election just two days away, he cannot present what the Namfrel calls "the correct, full and complete voting list." In other words, he cannot even give an honest count of how many voters will go to the polls on May 10, but here he is, insisting that the Comelec can do an honest quick count.

How far out of touch is Abalos? Last April 6, he demonstrated to the media how quick the Comelec quick count was, using a newly purchased P300 million satellite system. The result: the old fax machine beat the multimillion-peso satellite system in reporting the count.

But wonder of wonders, Abalos declared the test "a success" and said, "As sure as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, that's how confident I am of our system."

Is this stubbornness or slow-wittedness? Whatever it is, this is terribly bad for democracy.

'Miting de avance'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE CAMPAIGN for the elections on Monday ends today in accordance with the Omnibus Election Code. Each party will be holding its *miting de avance*, or what is remembered of it, unless this has already been held a few days before.

The *miting de avance* was a traditional feature of the campaign during the time of the two-party system, when the Nacionalista Party under President Manuel L. Quezon and the Popular Front Party under Sen. Juan Sumulong vied for the voters' support.

The practice continued when Senate President Manuel A. Roxas defected from the Nacionalista Party under President Sergio Osmeña and formed the Liberal Party. The continuing contest between these two parties retained the *miting de avance* until President Ferdinand Marcos practically killed both of them with the organization of his Kapisanan ng Bagong Lipunan.

The *miting de avance* was a showy affair. Followers of the party participated in it with much enthusiasm fired by the heady expectation of a landslide in the coming polls. The men (and later even women) carried gas-lit torches that to them symbolized the power of their votes and the spirit of liberty. Placards and banners and streamers were displayed as if they were already spoils of victory. There was much cheering and sloganeering and good fellowship all around.

Music was also there, of course, with songs and bands. The songs were sung by the marchers together as a sign of harmony among them, and the bands came from the local musicians with their beat-up trumpets, drums and precious guitars. There were no featured entertainers to lend some kind of glamour to the march because it was supposed to be a political gathering. It was not a gaudy stage show.

The high point of the *miting de avance* was the arrival of the marchers at the place where it was to be held, usually the principal plaza. In Manila when it was the center city of the Philippines, this had to be Plaza Miranda in the district of Quiapo. This used to be the most important political forum in the whole country before it was converted into a shopping mall openly selling bottles of *"Pang pa regla."*

President Ramon Magsaysay, ever sensitive to public opinion, required every idea suggested to him to be first approved at Plaza Miranda. It was here that the people hooted Parity as proposed by President Roxas. This was the venue of an assassination attempt against him in 1947 and years later against his partymates. In 1965, Marcos, not yet a dictator then, shouted his angry demand to the incumbent President Diosdado Macapagal to *"Alis diyan!"*

The local candidates in Manila also held their *miting de avance* at Plaza Miranda. Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson was a crowd-getter who always filled the place whenever he was expected to speak. I am proud to recall my own father, after whom that street in Sampaloc is named, who was a spell-binder with his poetic Tagalog and often spoke in that contentious arena.

No less important, Plaza Miranda was also the disputed meeting place where the Supreme Court first laid down the clear and present danger rule as the libertarian test for the exercise of freedom of expression.

Where is the *miting de avance* now?

The *miting de avance* has vanished in the confusion, disunity and ineffectiveness of the multiple political parties today. This may be one reason why the coming elections may be an anomalous and wasteful exercise of the Filipinos' precious right of suffrage.

My vote

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT is not clear how many command votes the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai leadership really have at their disposal (some analysts have made a strong case that the "solid voting bloc" attributed to these organizations is a myth). Nor is it clear what considerations they took into account in making their choice. But, whether coincidental or not, the fact that their support for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo came on the heels of the surveys showing her with a statistically significant lead, reinforces the suspicion that the overriding consideration in that choice is "winnability."

It's the ultimate in fence-sitting. They're not influencing the course of events, they are influenced by them. Or put another way, they didn't bake the cake, they just put icing on it, and then try to get credit for the whole thing. And if reports in the media about quid pro quos are accurate, they get huge rewards for this behavior. The ultimate scam?

I am like these organizations in that I have taken a long time to come to a decision on whom to vote for. But no one can claim that I am jumping on any bandwagon or casting my lot with the "sure" winner, because I am voting for Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

And no, it is not because I was looking for a messiah, as my friend Doro would say. I defend my decision as a rational one, albeit one that took an agonizingly long time. And one that I shall be transparent about, at the risk of offending the candidates and their supporters.

For each candidate, I compared what was going for and what was going against him/her, the pluses and minuses, if you will, applying what is called marginal analysis, the classical tool for optimal decision-making. I eliminated the candidates who had more going against them than for them (where the marginal net yield was negative) and then dealt with the remaining three by trying to determine which one presented the highest marginal net yield.

It may sound straightforward, but it is anything but. I was not comparing financial costs and benefits, where it is a matter of arithmetic. We are talking about positive and negative attributes, which does not make for easy comparison, for how do you compare, let alone measure, not just the quality but the quantity of experience, or past performance, in different fields? What weights are to be given the attributes?

And I was trying to do this in my mind, rather than practicing what I preach, which is to list down all the attributes, and then group them if the lists turn out to be unwieldy.

The actual process I followed sounds more like a chapter from "The Perils of Pauline." I eliminated Fernando Poe Jr. and Panfilo Lacson at the outset, and I feel what happened in the campaign period reinforced that decision. My initial rule of thumb was that there were minimum conditions that each candidate had to fulfill, which for simplicity boiled down to: a soft or warm heart (*malasakit*, an overriding concern for the problems of the poor and marginalized sectors) and a hard or cold head (the ability to prioritize, to solve problems in the most efficient manner, to make sure that the good intentions of the soft heart were not paving a road to hell). Thus, FPJ was out because in my opinion he has a soft head, and Lacson was out because he has a hard heart (the tortures during the Marcos regime and the killings during his Estrada stints haunt him).

My choice narrowed down to GMA and Raul Roco (Villanueva was not initially in consideration since I didn't have the information on him, and it was hard enough choosing between GMA and Roco). In terms of arrogance and lack of people skills, they were about even. Roco had a clear edge over GMA in the corruption issue, because neither he nor any member of his family was tainted. He also had the edge on decisiveness, as well as sticking to principle. GMA had the clear edge on economic understanding, but one, after all, does not have to be a Ph.D. to be an intelligent consumer of economic information. So, overall, I was inclined to Roco. But I got sidetracked: there was the fear that voting for him might lead to an FPJ victory (why does one always think that the Filipino people are dumb?). And I leaned toward GMA again.

Then FPJ started to self-destruct, and it is hard to say whether he hurt himself more by opening his mouth or keeping it shut. And GMA's appointments to the Commission on Elections were so obviously self-serving, so totally me-first-before-country that I could no longer ignore her shortcomings. She may be the least in a corrupt field, "the lesser of two evils," but it is still a corrupt field, and it is still "evil."

At the same time, information on Villanueva became available, and what I saw and heard was impressive (the fact that Ciel Habito stood four-square behind him made an impact). Villanueva brought to the table administrative experience (running a three million-strong organization), a good reputation among his colleagues, no political baggage of *utang-na-loob* to politicians, no taint of corruption—and a clear and credible platform (corrupt politicians talk about fighting corruption, and you want to puke).

So my choice was down to either Roco or Villanueva. Then Roco had medical problems. And while he has come back, and is ready to take on the world, Villanueva still has the edge in health (let's face it, the presidency is a 24/7 job), and in the political baggage department.

And that explains my vote.

No need to cheat

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ENDORSEMENTS have rained on President Macapagal-Arroyo and her running mate Noli de Castro, notably from the Iglesia ni Cristo, El Shaddai and the Aglipayan Church (I understand Catholic bishops are quietly plugging for them, too) as well as from big citizens' groups, even as defections to GMA's camp continue. One might say that on the eve of the elections, the race for the two top posts is all over. The question seems to be, how big will her margin be over FPJ?

This is a good development, as it will make citizens realize that the opposition's charge about massive cheating by the administration has no basis. For why would it cheat when it can win fair and square?

But whether the Commission on Elections can conduct the elections and supervise the counting efficiently and fairly is another question. If there would be doubts about the outcome of the elections, it could perhaps be ascribed to the bungling of the Comelec.

* * *

Endorsements such as those of the INC and El Shaddai matter a lot in close national elections as these groups can deliver a few million votes. But they are better appreciated in local fights. In San Fernando, Pampanga, two friends of mine are contesting the mayoralty: former Immigration Commissioner Andrea Dizon-Domingo, who is running under Lakas-Kampi, and Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, the Lakas official candidate. Both have good track records. Domingo made a name for herself in the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, where she succeeded in either screening out or tracking down notorious terrorists. She also gave the BID a record collection of more than P3.5 billion through the difficult years of 9/11, SARS, the Bali bombings, etc. On the other hand, Rodriguez stood out in legislative work during his three terms.

Domingo seems to have the edge in the contest for the city's 100,000 votes because of her excellent machinery and infinite *tiyaga*. That edge was recognized by the INC when it anointed her even as it picked Rodriguez's vice-mayoral candidate. The INC support could deliver 10,000 sure votes to Domingo.

Interestingly, GMA, caught between two close associates who are both carrying her in their tickets, has skipped San Fernando in her campaign sorties.

* * *

"I want to retire at 60 and turn to pleasurable things, like painting," says Domingo wistfully. But right now, she's staring at the depressing poverty in Pampanga's seemingly progressive capital, which, she says, badly needs a city hospital, high school and cemetery. Her son, former Health Assistant Secretary Eric Domingo, 35, a UP-Intarmed graduate trained in ophthalmology at the University of Valladolid in Spain, is also running for the seat vacated by Rodriguez in Pampanga's third district. The INC anointment could give Eric a 30,000 edge over his rival, former San Fernando Mayor Rey Aquino, another doctor.

* * *

In Parañaque's second district, former National Security Adviser Roilo Golez is sure to reclaim his old House seat, judging from the latest Lakas surveys. Golez is running against Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, but the latter has been severely damaged by recent scandals, 103 graft cases and charges of mismanagement. Parañaque has become the "*basura* capital" of Metro Manila, with Sucat stinking.

* * *

In Camarines Norte, two big local names are fighting for its lone congressional seat: former BIR Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato of the famous Vinzons clan is running against incumbent Rep. Jojo Unico, son of former Assemblyman Rene Unico. Chato, a UP law graduate and campus beauty-and-brains combination in her time, has served with me on the board of the Alay sa Kawal Foundation for many years and I know she'd be a real asset in the House where revenue measures originate.

* * *

Running with the formidable ticket of Mayor Sonny Belmonte in Quezon City is multi-awarded city councilor Annie Rosa Susano, who attended a development economics course in the JFK School of Government in Harvard University. Annie, who belongs to an old wealthy Novaliches family, is running in the second district. She notes that over the past 12 years, the mayor and the representative of the district have come from opposing camps. Now she wants to show what teamwork with Belmonte can do for that district.

* * *

I'm glad to note that despite the prevailing cynicism about our politics, many young people have joined the political fray, indicating their continuing faith in the system, albeit it needs reforms badly. One is Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo's daughter, UP professor Berna Romulo Puyat, who's running for the House in Quezon City's first district. Another is Joseph Penson Juico, son of former Agrarian Reform Secretary Philip Ella Juico and Margie Juico of the PCSO, who's running for councilor also in the first district under Belmonte's ticket. A good-looking 6'2" athlete with a college degree in human resource management from De La Salle's College of St. Benilde, who later attended the Missouri Southern State College in the US, Sep wants to develop a strong community youth sports program for his district. I'd bat for this as it is the best antidote to the pernicious drug problem in our city.

Philip Juico says with a laugh that he's working five times harder now that his son is running for councilor than when he himself ran for Congress in 1992. As such, he sees GMA's organization in the first district, working in tandem with Belmonte's "great group," and he says he's "simply awed" by it.

* * *

If you failed to see the fantastic interview of Heherson Alvarez's better half, Cecile, by Boy Abunda in "Private Conversations" over ANC, catch its rerun today at 2 p.m. and tomorrow at 9 p.m. Cecile simply overwhelmed the irrepressible Abunda.

Violence begets violence in Thailand

EYE ON ASIA

Karim Raslan

AS the Philippines prepares for its presidential elections, the leading contenders should pause to consider the tragic developments in southern Thailand. Events in the three majority Muslim provinces of Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani demonstrate the speed with which peace can be destroyed.

The massacre of over 100 machete-wielding teenage boys is a terrible consequence of one man's—Thaksin Shinawatra—irresponsible and pigheaded leadership.

The mounting lawlessness in southern Thailand, the escalation of violence, the killings and reprisal killings culminating in last week's massacre can be traced back to a series of maladroit decisions taken by the autocratic and inexperienced premier.

The atmosphere of fear and resentment in the three majority Muslim provinces of Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani is unprecedented. Hitherto, Thailand under the guidance of King Bhumibol and the Democrat party under former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai has always managed to control the south with a mixture of negotiation, accommodation and force, when necessary.

It seems highly probable that Samuel Huntington's thesis of civilizational conflict will now be played out in the peaceful majority Buddhist kingdom. This was by no means inevitable or applicable even in the aftermath of 9/11, the American-led invasion of Iraq and the Thai government's decision to deploy troops in Iraq.

Unlike the situation in Southern Philippines (where a Roman Catholic majority is faced with a Muslim minority), the three majority Muslim provinces had managed to achieve a measure of stability in the years preceding Thaksin's premiership. Thaksin's divisive and authoritarian manner—more appropriate for the crony capitalism of Southeast Asian boardrooms—as well as his "black-and-white" approach to governance with its implicit rejection of consensus-building has angered and outraged the country's Muslim population.

Abhisit Vejjajiva, a prominent opposition figure explains: "There was a clear and positive trend in the South before Thaksin assumed power. The situation had improved considerably under the previous Democrat administration. Frankly, Thaksin's missteps demonstrate the limitations of his aggressive 'business' approach to the infinitely more complex task of managing a nation."

Much of the credit for the initial peace in the south must be given to the strong leadership of the Thai monarch, King Bhumibol as well as systems of power- and information-sharing that evolved over the decades between the different sections of the administration and the security forces.

While the system was flawed—the Committee for Coordinating Activities in the Southern Provinces and its military wing, the 43rd United Force, gave too much authority to the military—it did at least create a peaceful and manageable environment. Moreover there was an acknowledgment of the region's very different ethos and cultural practices as well as attempts to accommodate the wishes of local leaders.

However, Thaksin ignored and then dismantled these painstakingly developed systems and imposed martial law. In typical fashion, the premier abolished the vital committee, thereby creating a power vacuum that was never entirely resolved.

Somphon Wongchanglaw, a political analyst with a Bangkok-based think-tank, is critical of the wisdom of imposing martial law: "The sunset-to-sunrise curfew has hit the local community—many of whom are rubber-tappers—very badly. It's made them more anti-government and sympathetic to the insurgents."

The premier's attempts to shift authority away from the army to the police has also backfired in that the police lacked the requisite knowledge, experience and firepower to deal with the challenges in the predominantly rural and jungle-based terrain.

As Pairat Pongpanich, foreign editor of the Thai language daily Matichon who was born and bred in the southern city of Songkhla, explains: "The South is extremely complicated. There are many factors at work—local warlords, crime syndicates and national-level politicians. You can't remove old structures overnight. Reforms need to be sequenced and thought through."

The centralization of power under Thaksin has also worsened the situation, inculcating a culture of sycophancy at the highest levels of policymaking. Certainly, the premier's initiation of a high-profile, anti-drug war last year (in which an estimated 2,500 people died in a series of extra-judicial killings) displayed a worrying disregard for established legal processes and the country's constitution.

Somphon argues: "Thaksin sought to employ the same strategy in his war on drugs in the south. This only resulted in alienating the Muslim population even more.

"His CEO style has engendered an environment where immediate results are expected—no matter what the cost, legally or politically. A classic example of this is the allegation that the kidnapping and murder of the Muslim attorney Somchai Neelaphaijit was carried out by security forces."

An added embarrassment to the premier has been the allegations that members of his own political party, Thai Rak Thai, actually masterminded the Jan. 4 raid on the Narathiwat Rajanakarin Army base in the south.

If such brazen and criminal activities are proven, they will make a mockery of the premier's much vaunted tough stance on law and order as well as further undermine the Thai Rak Thai's flagging credibility as a force for change and reform.

The situation in Thailand's "Deep South" will only be overcome when Thaksin manages to control his personal weaknesses as a leader. His authoritarian style, his policy flip-flops and rash decisions have confused administrators, security forces and local leaders.

The premier will only succeed in pacifying the south if he learns from the lessons of the past: that violence only begets violence. He should endeavor to reach out to the Muslim population—both its religious and secular leaders—and attempt to win over their hearts and minds.

The Philippines and the two leading presidential candidates have much to learn from the Thai premier's catastrophic handling of events. Force alone begets hatred and an escalation of violence.

It's not too late to disprove Huntington.

Loida Lewis on GMA's learning curve

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LOIDA Nicolas Lewis may have "inherited" her position as chair and CEO of Beatrice TLC, which until she sold many of its components had been one of the world's largest food companies, but she hasn't retained control of the conglomerate or broken new ground in China, the Philippines and other territories by keeping a low profile and shying away from controversy.

Taking advantage of dual citizenship, she has earned not just the right to own property and invest in this country, but also to wade into internal political affairs. And this time she is neck-deep in her advocacy for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Addressing a meeting of the Kababaihan para kay Gloria at Bayan (Kagabay), Loida linked her life story and the lessons she has learned to the story of the GMA presidency. Every leader, whether the president of a country or CEO of even a small corporation, goes through a "learning curve," she says. When she decided to step into her husband's outsize shoes and halt the decline in profits assailing the company that had been the life's work of Reginald Lewis, "it wasn't easy." But the fact that she held "majority control" of the stocks allowed her to do what she felt was needed, even if she made a few mistakes along the way.

With three years of governance behind her, the President, says Loida, has already gotten past her own learning curve and can pursue her goals straightaway, whereas a new, inexperienced chief executive would be spending the first year at least just replacing agency heads with his own loyalists. "Continuity" is another big word with Loida.

But for GMA to enjoy a free hand and pursue her programs, Loida says she will need "majority control," in the electoral sense a decisive victory, which voters must grant her come Monday.

* * *

ALL things being equal, I give the edge to women candidates, reasoning that gender balance not only ensures more representative government and more responsive policies and laws, but also that women contribute something fresh and new to politics.

But women are no more homogeneous or free from human flaws than men are, so gender should not be the only consideration when choosing whom to vote for. As always, individual qualities—competence, integrity, compassion, energy, drive and vision—all count, or should count, when making one's choices.

Who will I be voting to the Senate come May 10? Among the women, Amina Rasul has my vote. I have known her for a long time and have no doubt about her competence and her commitment to issues of gender and development. Boots Anson-Roa, even if she hardly figures in the surveys, will, I know, support legislation for the advancement of women, children and families. Pia Cayetano is a new face in politics, even if her campaign ads hark to her resolve to build on the legacy of her late father. But even when she steps away from the shadow of "Compañero," Pia has much to recommend her to the Senate: her training as a lawyer, her awareness of gender issues and determination to champion them, her youth and the fact that she will be a breath of fresh air in the stale corridors of power.

* * *

WHO else? I have already aired in this space my belief in and support for: Rodolfo Biazon, whom I admire for the strength of his convictions and courage to air them; Orly Mercado, for his dedication to the task of lawmaking and his sense of humor (a necessary trait in the Senate, believe me); Sonny Alvarez, because of his steadfastness to principles; and Mar Roxas, because he proved himself to be a serious, capable lawmaker in the House, and a steady performer as trade secretary.

These seven candidates have my strong support. But since I am determined to fill up the slate of 12, I will also include in my ballot: Parouk "Doc" Hussin, because his low-key personality is such a refreshing change and because I believe that, with Amina, he can effectively articulate the aspirations of Filipino Muslims; Jun Yasay, because his grasp of finance and economics makes him a welcome addition to the Senate and because I know he will support legislation for reproductive rights; Nicanor Gatmaytan Jr., because he will champion the cause of people with disabilities and members of other minority groups; and Aquilino Pimentel, who has taken positions I have often disagreed with, but who stands out in contrast to the rest of the "senatoriable" array.

Yes, I know, I need one more name to fill up my slate of senators. But I had a hard enough time coming with these 11, so I'll sleep on the last name.

* * *

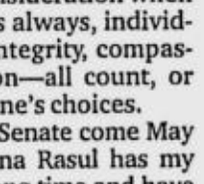
OF course I cannot end this column without a word on Abanse! Pinay, the women's party-list group. If you believe in gender equality, if you believe in the need to give voice to women in policymaking and the crafting of laws, and if you believe that women deserve priority in the national agenda, then you should vote Abanse! Pinay.

I am particularly excited about the prospect of bringing into the legislature Abanse! Pinay's top three nominees: Remmy Rikken, Alice Morada and Yasmin Busran Lao. Individually and collectively, they represent a wealth of experience, competence, courage and vision that can only enrich our legislature.

Prayers as well for my friend Celia Flor, who is running for mayor of Bacolod City despite the long odds and the daunting prospects.

I also recently met with Lourdes "Tunting" Cruz, who is part of the legal team assisting Melissa Mercado-Martel in her case of frustrated parricide against her husband Robby, and Tunting begged for a mention of her brother Angel Boy Cruz, who is contesting the mayoralty of Hagonoy, Bulacan. Tunting vouches for her brother's integrity and capability, and Hagonoy voters should know Tunting's word is good enough for me.

Portrait of the artist



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

"TO REMEMBER and to sing..."

English majors of my generation read Nick Joaquin's stories with more than a tinge of envy at the man's command of the language. To use a cliché, he played it like a violin virtuoso. With the passage of years, it was puzzling why it could not be translated into the big screen but after the film adaptation of "May Day's Eve," it was also obvious why. A mere question of sensibility; you either understand what he's trying to say or you don't.

Back then Prof. Teodoro Locsin Sr. took our literature class to his Free Press office to meet the great man (even then people were already in awe) and we just stood there tongue-tied. Decades later, he was to write an essay for an Assumption publication in exchange for a case of beer, which you have to admit had to be done by someone who was not only very kind but must have just enjoyed writing. I would run into him several times because of his dear friend Virgie Moreno who could always persuade him to support her projects and even attend meetings of Unesco where he promptly shouted at everybody in exasperation.

It does not look as though anyone else has captured the imagination of the public about a particular era in Philippine history the way Joaquin did. True, Brocka catches the grit and despair of post-war Manila but while the vision is equally valid, I do not know if one would like to remember and sing about it or just get away from the city as fast as possible.

Neither do I get the impression that Brocka "loved" Manila the way Joaquin did. Of course, Joaquin's Manila may have been that of his childhood, his teens and adulthood; it may even be a Manila of his imagination, a mythic city, but that doesn't make it any less real. He rendered it in clear and powerful strokes with all the colors and flavors of a masterful painting come alive.

Then again he was a romantic. Locsin, in his introduction to Joaquin's "Prose and Poetry," states that the author lets us see the world "afresh." For many of us it was a glimpse of a world we never knew. But a world that the writer obviously loved, a vanished culture and tradition that was mourned because what took its place was common, trite and mediocre.

At his wake I wondered why it was being held at the Sanctuario de San Antonio in Makati. It seemed to me he belonged in Intramuros, San Agustin specifically, since all the other churches he knew—Sto. Domingo, Recoletos, the Franciscans and San Ignacio—were bombed and bulldozed. The family it seems first thought of holding the services at Sto. Domingo in Quezon City because of his devotion to La Naval. (In the same spirit that devotees once gave the Japonesa their priced possessions, so too did Nick give the Virgin the medal he received as National Artist in 1976.) But the Forbes Park mortuary appeared to be the most convenient. The young, the old, the rich, the famous, the infamous and notorious—they all went to pay their last respects.

Joaquin's themes are universal: love, desire and the grip of the past, honor and dishonor, the war of the sexes. A recurring theme is an aging, dominant male figure, brooding and controlling the sons and daughters—both a curse and a blessing. And perhaps from Joaquin's point of view, that is what the past is until you resolve and reconcile yourself with it.

His version of women is highly romanticized: the eternal earth mother, Eve. He presents images of woman as temptress, as comforter, as a haven of safety, and finally the womb where man longs to return. Woman is the stronger sex while man is seen as basically weak, in the clutches of desires and powerless against the forces that dominate his life.

The man was not only Christian but Filipino Catholic in what a younger generation would surely describe as old-fashioned. He writes: "Consider this Faith we profess: among us it is attacked as 'Western'; the Romans abhorred it as 'African'; the Russians refused it as 'European'; and the Europeans disdain it as 'Oriental.' How elusive is the Christ-Child! He has long ceased to be merely of Bethlehem; he is also now the Holy Child of Prague, the Holy Child of Timbuctoo, the Holy Child of Tondo, Cebu and Pandacan. He is of nowhere in particular and everywhere in general." Who else but a Filipino could have written thus?

But the heart of Nick Joaquin is the story teller—fascinating, entertaining, magical. He cut a niche for himself in Philippine letters as the leading chronicler of a storied past and the purveyor of a style that, while using English, evokes the cadence and floridness of Spanish colonial speech. He revived ancient myths belonging to other generations and recalled old traditions lost in the shadows of yesterday.

A poet, playwright, essayist and novelist, the prolific Joaquin was proclaimed National Artist in 1979 and probably deserves every word of praise he has since received. The greatness and the legacy speak for themselves: tragedy and pain, stirring themes, refinement and bawdiness, universality and evil, despair and rage—all depicted in page after eloquent page.

There will be many more accolades and eulogies for this National Artist, but none should pay him as much honor and tribute as a new publication of his works for all those who have missed the opportunity to know this quintessential Filipino writer.

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Only one Nick Joaquin

NEVER put off what you can do today! How sad I am for failing to send that letter of "How are you Nick?" after I heard he was not "all too good" from Greg Brillantes and Johnny Gatbonton.

The sad news came from a text message. Not from Mara Lacaba. The Lacabas were always in the company of Nick. The last time I saw Nick was at Mara's. She had arranged a party for "Three Widows and Their 'Alalo'." The widows were Oryang Lanot, Emy Arcellana and myself (NVM Gonzalez's widow). The *alalo* was Nick Joaquin. Mara explained to me that *alalo* meant the masculine of *alalay*. No. Nick didn't do any "*alalo*" for us: He stuck to his bottles of beer and the karaoke by his side. The widows huddled together. Between singing and drinking, Nick would signal to his "grandchildren." They'd go near him, give him a kiss. Nick would fish out a P100 bill and give one to each as they came.

I have always wondered at Nick's wonderful memory of the "nineteen forgotten" songs. He'd belt out the words clearly, and Lulu, Mara, Luning and myself knew some first lines and, no more. Pepe taught Nick some naughty songs. However, Nick avoided singing them at home.

NVM and I met Nick in the early '50s. Nick said it was NVM who published him first in the Evening News Magazine. When I saw Nick after some years of stay in California, he said, "You were afraid of me because I was always drunk." I really don't remember.

I wonder why I never asked Nick to be *ninong* to one of my four children. The writers I asked were Ben Santos, Manning Virey, Amada Dacanay, Conrado Rigor, Dr. Sonia Santos, Lina Flor and Alfredo Morales.

Nick was our guest speaker at the first NVM Awards Literary Contest. The event was held at the Kahilwayan Garden of NVM in Area 1, UP Campus. Nick came

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

prepared with notes. I'm happy I located the article. His piece is included in a monumental book "Remembering NVM," now in the UP press. Andy Cruz said, "This is his only copy. He doesn't write duplicates." Nick wrote in long hand for this speech.

I'm glad I asked Nick to write the foreword of "Writers' Wives," a book I edited. I rarely had long conversations with him. He'd move around and maybe also repeat "Hello darling," when he saw his women friends. But I miss that "hello dahrling." No one can say that like the way only Nick Joaquin did.

—NARITA MANUEL-GONZALEZ,
UP Campus,
Diliman, Quezon City

Appalling BIR proposal to tax OFWs

MIGRANTE International, an alliance of overseas Filipino workers' groups, strongly denounces the new proposal to tax OFWs.

In many countries like Canada and Hong Kong, OFWs are already taxed. If approved, the resulting "double taxation" of our compatriots would be a double whammy on their already low incomes.

We were pleased when our strong campaign to end double taxation scored a victory with the passage of the Tax Reform Act of 1997. Before the passage of that law, OFWs paid 1 to 2 percent taxes on their incomes.

That the Bureau of Internal Revenue now seeks to reverse this gain is unjust and only proves that under the Macapagal administration, OFWs are her "scapegoats" and "milking cows."

It's appalling that BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares dares to blame OFWs for the drop in BIR collections. What about the billions in tax revenues lost because of negligence, corruption and tax breaks to multinational corporations?

Instead of going after the increasingly meager wages of OFWs, the BIR should prosecute and jail big-time tax evaders.

OFWs already contribute much to the Philippine economy. We're the country's top-dollar earner and our remittances regularly help keep the plummeting peso afloat.

In February, we sent back $594 million in remittances, the highest in five years. While in 2003, remittances—through official bank-to-bank channels only—reached almost $8 billion. This is in addition to the millions of pesos we pay directly to the Philippine government for the processing of our passports, NBI clearances and forced $25 Overseas Welfare Workers Administration membership fee.

Almost daily, the Macapagal administration comes out with new anti-migrant statements and schemes. This proposal to tax OFWs is only the latest.

—MAITA SANTIAGO,
secretary general,
Migrante International,
49 Mayaman cor. Matahimik Sts.,
UP Village, Quezon City

Paging Naia general manager

LAST Sunday, April 25, I took my son-in-law to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to catch the early morning Northwest flight to Toronto. What I witnessed appalled me.

1. Two minutes allowed for parking. I barely got out of the car and managed to get the luggage out when the allotted two minutes for parking was up, and I was told to move out by an arrogant airport guard.

2. The long queue at both ends which kept getting longer because of the tedious examination of travel documents by airport personnel. This was early morning. I can imagine what it must be like lining up and getting roasted by the noon-day sun. What a way to promote tourism! Why not allow check-in at Terminal 2 and then bus passengers to the Naia, or designate secured places in Manila or Makati for passengers to check in their luggage, say, one day prior to departure?

3. Except for a few decrepit pushcarts, there were none available to passengers. For the substantial airport fees collected every day, I think decent carts can be purchased and made available at no cost to the traveling public.

I wish President Macapagal-Arroyo can take the time and make a surprise visit to the airport before May 10. It will surely bring her more votes and appreciation particularly from departing overseas Filipino workers.

—PABLO N. SARE,
1151 Tamarind Rd.,
Dasmariñas Village, Makati City

MANIFESTO:

SONNY OSMEÑA DOES NOT DESERVE THE SUPPORT OF THE CEBUANOS/BISAYA

Don Sergio Osmeña and Serging Osmeña were among the most admired and respected leaders from Cebu. Mayor Tomas Osmeña and Senator Serge Osmeña carries on their legacy of devoted and selfless public service.

But another Osmeña had disgraced the family name and brought untold embarrassment to Cebu.

John Henry Osmeña (alias Sonny) addresses the Cebuano electorate as **"Haring Lungsod."** But after the elections he treats himself as **"Hari sa Lungsod,"** insulting, harassing and oppressing anyone who blocks his quest for wealth and power.

Many individuals, institutions and groups have experienced Sonny Osmeña's legendary vindictiveness. Even the University of the Philippines is not spared, just because he dislikes its President who happens to be a fellow Cebuano. Sonny Osmeña cut UP's budget by over P114 Million Pesos.

During the Davide impeachment, Sonny Osmeña again sided with the Pro impeachment block against a highly respected Cebuano/Bisaya Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr.

After the 1998 elections, he told the Cebuanos "Magpuasa kamo." You go hungry because Erap, my candidate, lost badly in the province. True to his word, Sonny Osmeña as chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee denied funding of development projects in Cebu, including cutting the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) shares of all Local Government Unit (LGU) in the Philippines by P5 Billion in 1999, P15 Billion in 2000 and P15 Billion in 2001.

He is now repackaging his tattered image. But his new image as "John O." cannot hide his real character as a treacherous and perverted politician.

John Henry Osmeña (alias Sonny, alias John O) does not deserve the support of the Cebuanos, Bisaya and the Filipino people.

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	2001	2002	Apr '03	Aug '03	Sept '03	Nov '03	Jan '04	Feb '04	
DE CASTRO	76%	75%	76%	66%	68%	66%	64%	67%	Ranked First
LEGARDA	68%	67%	69%	63%	62%	64%	59%	65%	

- **SENATE BILLS FILED ---------- 140**
- **SENATE RESOLUTIONS FILED ---- 15**

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Abot-kamay lang si Kabayan!

"I have authored and filed 140 bills and 15 resolutions and sponsored 7 bills. Labing apat sa aking Senate bills ang naging batas na. Ako rin ang principal author ng Alternative Dispute Resolution law. Malaki ang maitutulong ng batas na ito upang mabawasan ang docket ng ating mga korte. Ako rin ang nagsulong at principal author ng newborn screening test law na ngayon ay RA 9288 na. Produkto ito ng isang segment sa MGB na kung saan napag-alaman naming marami sa mga sakit ng mga bata ay maiiwasan kung magiging mandatory lamang ang newborn screening."

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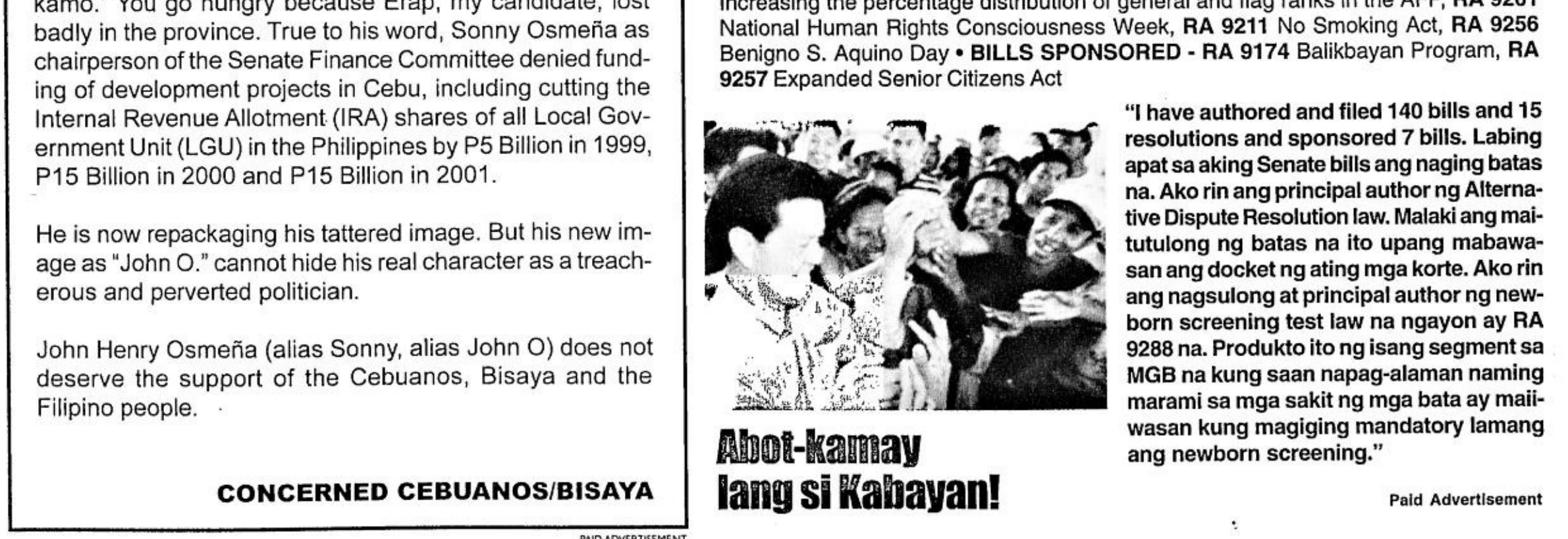

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SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
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Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

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FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
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Bayan Muna campaign ends in 2 deaths

By Juan Escandor Jr. and Joyce Mejillano
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—The party-list group Bayan Muna ended its election campaign yesterday in Camarines Sur with two of its members abducted and killed and 22 others missing since the harassment against them began on March 1, the day the New People's Army (NPA) captured two soldiers in an ambush in Tinambac, Camarines Sur.

But even as the group did so, its counterpart among the working class, the Anakpawis, suffered another blow when its regional headquarters in Barangay Pinarik, Legazpi City was burned by unidentified persons.

Bayan Muna held an indignation rally yesterday morning at the Plaza Quenci Martires in Naga City condemning the continuous harassment against the party-list group that they said was fueled by National Security Adviser Roberto Gonzales' Red-baiting campaign against them.

Eric Torrecampo, Camarines Sur coordinator, said the families of the victims of armed abductions of Bayan Muna members have filed complaints at the provincial prosecutor's office.

Torrecampo said the criminal complaints that ranged from physical assault to writs of habeas corpus were directed against the officers and members of the Army's 42nd Infantry Battalion based in Malodbalod, Tigaon town.

But Army spokesperson Col. Serafin Raymundo has consistently denied the group's allegations and instead accused the NPA of perpetrating the abductions.

Bayan Muna topped the voting for party-list groups in the 2001 elections, with 27 percent or 71,222, out of a total of 263,133 votes in Camarines Sur. Presidential aspirant Raul Roco's party-list group Aksyon Demokratiko shared the second highest rank with 10 percent or 27,400.

Torrecampo said they can field two watchers in all precincts in 21 of the 35 towns and two cities in Bicol's premier province where Bayan Muna has chapters.

In Legazpi City, Willy Marbella, head of Bayan-Bicol and coordinator of Anakpawis in Bicol said at about 3 a.m., a staff member smelled gasoline and realized that the office has been set on fire.

Policemen also found a bomb near the door of the office.

Marbella said four men were seen near the area prior to the incident.

Their office suffered damages, according to Marbella, and their campaign paraphernalia, like posters and streamers, were all turned into ashes.

Ecija gov says he's sticking with GMA candidacy

CABANATUAN CITY—Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III has doused speculations that he is shifting support to presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. following his recent meeting with three senatorial candidates of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP).

"They indeed asked me for my support for Mr. Poe's candidacy," Joson said, referring to KNP candidates Ernesto Maceda, Juan Ponce Enrile and Jinggoy Estrada, who visited him April 15.

But Joson, a former ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada, said his support remains with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I have vowed before our people that I will support President Macapagal-Arroyo and I am standing by with my commitment. That's final," he said.

Joson said he was irked by a report in a political news magazine that said the three KNP aspirants had convinced him to support Poe. The report also said Joson's camp would soon release sample ballots carrying Poe's name.

"That's not true. I am not one who breaks my words," Joson, the acknowledged leader of the powerful Joson political family in Nueva Ecija, said.

A GROUNDSWELL of support for President Macapagal shows in a nationwide caravan on its way to Metro Manila from various provinces on Wednesday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

He claimed that 12 of the 13 members of the provincial board, the 32 city and town mayors of Nueva Ecija and most of the 900 barangays captain in the province are supporting Ms Macapagal.

Although Joson has massive grassroot support in his bid to make Ms Macapagal win in Nueva Ecija, his brother, Vice Gov. Eduardo Joson IV, is supporting Poe.

Joson IV is also the KNP coordinator in Nueva Ecija.

Another brother, former Gov. Eduardo Nonato "Edno" Joson is a candidate for senator under presidential candidate Raul Roco's Alyansa ng Pag-Asa.

"Neither one of them (Joson IV or Edno) can convince me to go over their side," he said. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WHY WE ARE VOTING FOR FPJ

Much has been said about the numbing silence, mumbling monotones and unassertive postures that have characterized the stance of FPJ since the start of the political campaign. Thus, he is seen by others as someone who is unwilling or unable to present his platform, afraid to face his opponents, or simply one who does not know much about the country to effectively take on the task of leading the people. Much of the charges as to form and appearance may be true, but the same do not reflect the substance, capacity and character of the person.

FPJ is not a trapo. FPJ acts as he has always conducted himself. He does not say much. He stoops all the time, one of us said he does not even look presidentiable. Yet if he chooses to be what he has always been and not be the politician that he must transform himself into, should not that be taken as a sign of sincerity and consistency? If he changed overnight to ape the other politicians, would he not have become simply another hypocrite, another wolf in a sheep's clothing? By letting him mouth the so-called motherhood statements, is he not in effect really articulating the longing of the people to go back to the basics where governance meant a real discourse and interaction with the people for the people by the people's representatives, and not among politicians for their own selfish interests? By admitting his shortcomings, and in not simply imposing his predetermined ideas, is he not more amenable to listening to the views of others?

Trapos would claim to be economists even when they bungle the economy. They would even pretend to fight corruption even if they themselves are corrupt to the bones. To the trapos, theatrics is the name of the game. It is also called deception. FPJ's candor and sincerity must not be regarded as shortcomings in the context of traditional political ways.

FPJ is not stupid. FPJ is not the most educated and most articulate man to tackle the presidency. He has no experience in governance. He has probably never shook hands or made beso-beso with a foreign president or dignitary before. It took a while before he could get together his platform of government, as in fact, it took a great, long while for him to agree to run for president.

He dropped out of high school because his father died untimely of rabies, and there was not enough money, and a lot of debts, for him to continue school. He got a job and made sure his siblings had what by force of circumstance he could not have. He made sure they finished their college education. He went on to become Da King, spanning over four decades and overcoming the comings and goings of other actors. His prestige, accomplishment and staying power in his industry are more than most of us lawyers can say for ourselves in ours.

FPJ is a multi-awarded actor, producer and director. In the process, he built a financial empire. Each one of his successful productions, and they are innumerable, required not only impeccable business sense, but hard work and the use of discretion, judgment and discernment. Surely, he cannot be stupid. His is a rare success story to be proud of.

When people insist that FPJ is inept and incompetent, they say so largely because he is not the leader we have been used to, the one exhorting with arms in frenzied gesticulation. When people say he cannot be president, it is because we are not accustomed to putting our trust on someone who spent less years sitting inside a classroom and more sweating it out under the sun. This is not an exercise of conscience. It is bigotry.

FPJ enjoys the trust of the masses. The poor identify with him. Probably not so much because he is simply an adored actor, but more because he is like them. Poor, uneducated, shunned and threatened by the elite and educated, no spokening much English. He therefore has what it takes to unite the masses and transform them into a potent force in this country's development. His presence is hope and inspiration, an energy to extricate the poor from feeling so poor.

The Philippines is a democratic and republican state. The power of the government emanates from the people themselves. Yet our present politicians do not trust those who shared with them the power they now brandish. For if they trust the people, then why is it that they seem to think that only they and their families have the right to be in public office? Why the self-perpetuating political dynasties? Is this not another form of hypocrisy among the learned and honorable? To them politics is an institutionalized art and science where the ordinary masses are seen only as props rather than partners, good only for their votes but not for their voice.

The silent and poor majority does have a voice. They trust FPJ. It's about time it's heard.

FPJ is not power hungry. FPJ is not blinded by power or money. He did not want the presidency, he refused it many times and for as long as he could. He does not exploit people or circumstance, position or relation. His name is clean and not associated with any scandal pertaining to corruption or the taking of undue advantage because of status. Not once during the two and a half year Erap administration did any of us ever hear of FPJ asking any favor from Erap, personal or otherwise.

FPJ will not compromise principles for the sake of winning. He would not deny his children borne out of wedlock. He would not imprudently accept financial donations. He would not even rehearse lines or gestures if doing so would compromise sincerity and candor. He is not pretentious. He does not lie.

FPJ is not beholden to anyone. Not to Angara, Cojuangco, Sotto or Erap. It is the easiest thing for those who are threatened by his lack of education to say he will be manipulated or is being manipulated. After all, is that not the way we look at the poor and the uneducated, a lot to be manipulated and subjugated?

FPJ is his own person. No one dictates upon him. And the fact that he has advisers does not make him incapable of decision-making. No leader is without advisers, otherwise he is a tyrant and not a leader. FPJ is fighting in order to change this administration, for which reason he, together with some others who share this political objective, belongs to the group called opposition. If there are perceived trapos in the opposition, their presence do not make or unmake the person of FPJ.

In the final analysis, it may be that what he is, what he stands for, and what he looks forward to that the common tao really identify with. He personifies simplicity, sincerity, humility, honesty and integrity, characteristics which have long been missing among those in government leadership for a long time. In FPJ the people may finally find a part of themselves being given a chance, at last.

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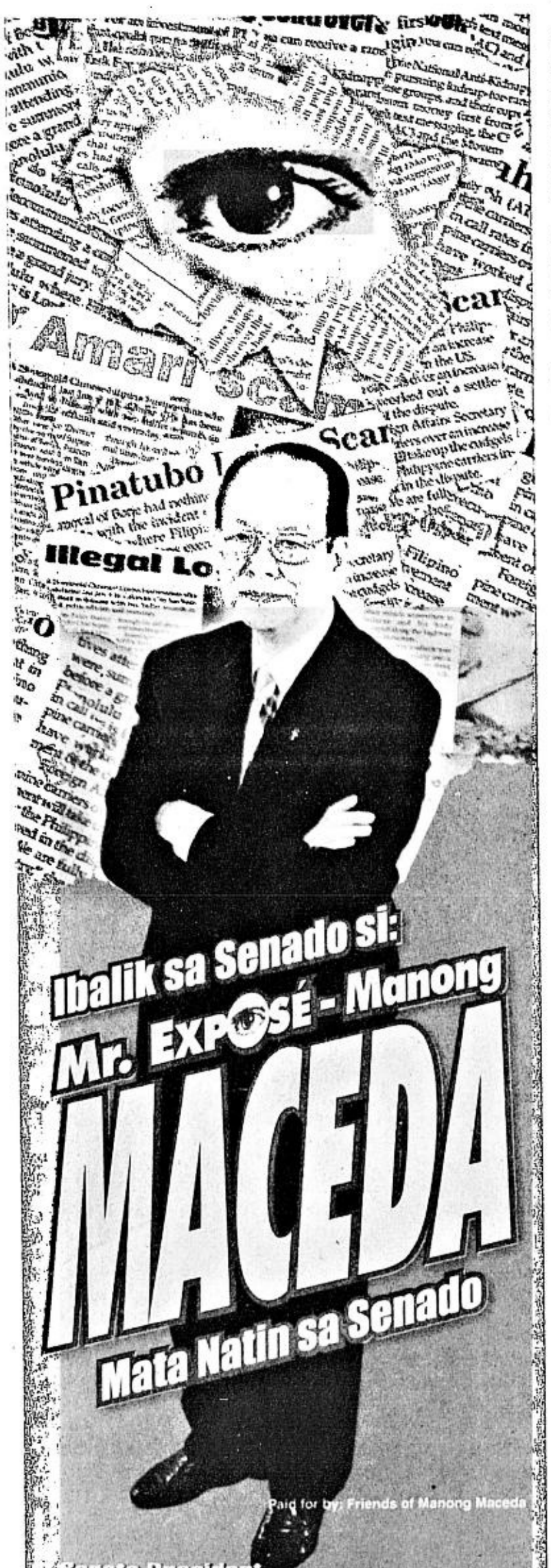
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

The magnificent mangroves of Panay

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

UNLIKE the bamboo or coconut, the mangrove has yet to take its place as a "tree of life" in Philippine lore, despite being ubiquitous, useful and magnificent.

If names given to places indicate popularity, mangroves probably have as many as those derived from the other two. The most common mangrove names are "*bakhaw*," "*lipata*" and "*tabao*" or "*matabao*." Maynilad, the old name of Manila, comes from "*nilad*" (*Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*), a mangrove species that grew abundantly along Manila Bay and Pasig River during the pre-Spanish times.



Mangroves act as shields of coastal communities because they do not bend, unlike bamboos, before the fury of 20 to 30 typhoons that visit the country every year. Many parts of the coconut tree may be useful but their number and versatility could probably never come close to those of the mangroves. Mangrove products include wood, firewood, poles and charcoal. The leaves of nipa palm (*Nypa fruticans*) are made into thatches used as roofing and wall materials in the rural areas.

The mangrove also has numerous medicinal uses. It can relieve the common cough, toothache, scabies, sore eyes, ulcers, diarrhea and dysentery, and can be used for birth control. The leaves, branches, fruit, seeds or roots of some species have been used as astringent, cosmetic or aphrodisiac.

Tuba, a popular drink made from coconut sap, would have no kick and color without "*baluk*," the powdered bark of a mangrove species (*Ceriops tagal*) locally called "*tungog*," "*tagal*" or "*tagasa*."

Mangrove forests had been sanctuaries of local residents fleeing the cruelty of Japanese soldiers during World War II.

They once carried early natives to trading missions in Southeast Asia on boats called *balanghai* , which was 15 meters long and 3 meters wide and could seat 60 to 90 persons. The boats, dating back to 320 AD, were constructed by joining the planks of "*dungon*" (*Heritiera littoralis*), the same mangrove wood that is being used today for house posts and coffins.

Remains of the vessels have been excavated in Agusan del Norte, then a major barter and gold panning area in northern Mindanao.

Guidebook

If they are indeed ecologically and historically important, why aren't there paeans and funky songs to mangroves?

Maybe poets, songwriters and anyone may be inspired by reading the "Handbook of Mangroves in the Philippines-Panay," written by Jurgenne H. Primavera, Resurreccion B. Sadaba, Ma. Junemie H.L. Lebata and Jon P. Altamirano and published by the Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec) with the support of Unesco.

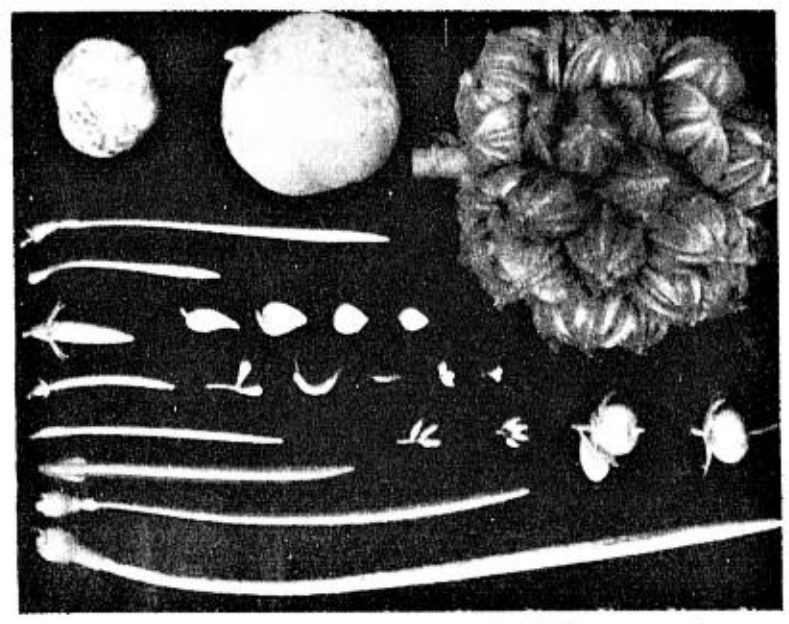
The handbook is a guidebook for experts and lay persons who are interested in mangrove research but rue the lack of even basic information about mangroves, especially on Panay Island, which has 33 of the 35 mangrove species in the country.

It presents detailed plant descriptions and available information on traditional uses, complete with impressive photographs of the habitat, leaves, flowers and fruits, roots and unique features. The information becomes alive and informative as it is caring and honest.

The authors took a year of field work to be able to write the handbook, from late 2002 through the 2003 flowering-fruiting season, but their observations date back to the 1980s, especially for Primavera, a senior scientist at Seafdec and expert on mangroves.

Together, they combed the coasts of Aklan, whose mangroves are highly diverse, to collect samples and retrieve stories about the species.

If not for being snoop as well, how, for example, did they know that the *Avicennia officinalis*, locally known as "*api-api*" or "*bungalon*" could make the libido leap? Or standing at dusk or at the drop of dawn under a grove of "*pagatpat*" (*Sonneratia alba*) as their numerous white filaments fall is a magical experience?



FRUITS of some mangrove species (from the inside front cover of Handbook of Mangroves in the Philippines-Panay). J.P. ALTAMIRANO/CONTRIBUTOR

Firing up the imagination

The handbook is also a field book but departs from being a drab recitation of scientific terms and explanation.

For example, the yellow green leaves of "*bungalon*" or "*bayabason*" (*Avicennia marina*) are described as giving a "golden appearance in sunlight"; the bark is "mottled light green to brown and flaky"; and its pneumatophores or aerial roots are "pencil-shaped."

"*Lipata*," "*alipata*" or "*butabuta*" (*Excoecaria agallocha*) blooms with male and female flowers distinguished during the reproductive period that is not really remote from human experience. Consider this line: "Male flowers in full bloom, which are longer than those of females, present a spectacular but short-lived sight of numerous catkins hanging from bare branches."

For coastal communities, mangroves mean life. Fish, prawns, shrimps and crabs are found in mangrove areas. At low tide, children and women glean for shellfish, among them the highly prized "*imbao*" clams in the mudflats.

Another delicacy found in mangroves is shipworm or "*tamiluk*" hiding among the decaying branches of the "*bakhaw*."

Trivia

For readers who are not less interested in exotic culinary pursuits, the handbook contains lots of trivia.

The royal throne of the king of Malaysia is made of "*piagao*" (*Xylocarpus moluccensis*) wood, which is known for its fine grain and deep color.

The original "*tako*" (cue stick) used by Efren "Bata" Reyes, one of the Philippines' champion billiards players, was made of *bakhaw* wood, probably of the *Rhizophora apiculata* species.

Other valuable sections in the handbook identify the mangroves species in the Philippines and locate the rare species, the biggest and the tallest, and the last stands in Panay.

Towards the end, the reasons for the decline of mangroves, mostly attributed to ignorance, greed and government neglect, are discussed. Information on laws on mangrove jurisdictions, zoning and fishpond conversion are also mentioned.

According to the authors, "legislation that conserves, protects, and rehabilitates Philippine mangroves has not been wanting—it is their implementation that is absent or generally weak."

Success stories

But there's hope as shown by the three success stories on mangrove conservation in Sagay City in Negros Occidental, Bais City in Negros Oriental, and the village of Binulasan in Infanta, Quezon; and stories of mangrove rehabilitation in Barangay Latasan in Pan-ay, Capiz and Barangay New Buswang in Kalibo, Aklan.

The mangrove plantation in New Buswang has been drawing tourists.

The handbook includes a plea for mangrove-friendly aquaculture, where farming seaweeds, mussels, oysters, crabs and fish does not require mangrove clearing, contrary to common practice.

Available at the Seafdec-AQD for P600, the publication is a must-buy for mangrove enthusiasts and anybody who wishes to learn about the world of mangroves.

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

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By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

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Guidebook

If there [illegible]

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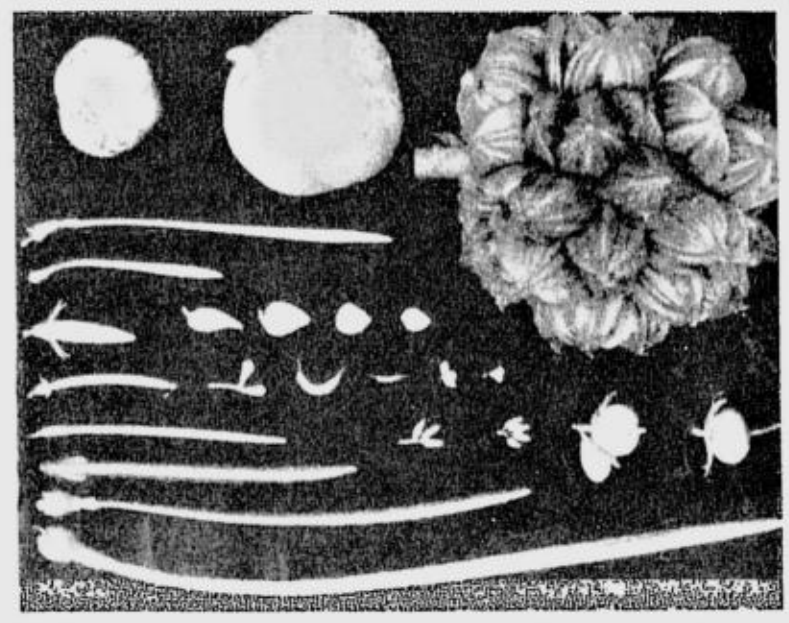

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Firing up the imagination

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Trivia

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Success stories

[illegible] now [illegible] [illegible] ng grov[illegible] [illegible] Negros Occ[illegible] B[illegible] C[illegible] N[illegible] [illegible]

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W. Mindanao voters' list questioned

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Just two days before the May 10 nationwide elections, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Western Mindanao revealed that the number of registered voters for this city is questionable.

Lawyer Renato Magbutay, assistant regional election director for Western Mindanao and some areas in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, told the INQUIRER that the "recent figures are under question."

"The acceptable normal increase should be 10 percent, but for the latest figures, it went up to 45 to 50 percent increase," Magbutay said.

In the 2001 elections, the number of total registered voters in the city was 256,000. But as of March 15 this year, it has gone up to 366,715.

Despite the noted disparity in the figures, lawyer Helen Aguila-Flores, Comelec director for Western Mindanao, said they will still use both the old and new lists of registered voters.

She said there were some minor problems in the listing, but gave assurances that measures have been taken to ensure that no one will be disenfranchised on Monday.

She said the problem lies in the Comelec central office where the main listing came from.

Magbutay said voters whose names had been written more than once in the list will be placed under tight watch.

As the elections draw near, reports of massive cheating and fraud abound, although the Comelec has promised to conduct credible elections. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Village chair deplores use of 3 'Gs' in Hagonoy

A VILLAGE chair of Hagonoy, Bulacan yesterday asked police to keep a close watch over the elections in the town because a candidate there has resorted to "guns, goons and gold."

Antonio Vengco, head of the League of Barangay Captains of Hagonoy, said the candidate, an incumbent legislator, has also resorted to vote-buying. The legislator's wife is running for vice mayor of the town.

Vengco also asked government graft investigators to conduct a lifestyle check on the legislator who owns a multimillion-peso mansion in Calumpit, Bulacan and 10 luxury vehicles.

"Our mayor, who does not even have a single bodyguard, adheres to the sense of fairness and rule of law practiced by his father, the late Secretary Blas Ople. I appeal to his political rivals to uphold the law and help us keep the elections clean and honest," Vengco said.

Comelec division disqualifies Maganto

THE COMMISSION on Elections' First Division has disqualified retired police officer Romeo Maganto from the race for governor of Bulacan for lack of residency.

But Maganto, a candidate of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, said he appealed the Comelec decision and pending its resolution, he is still qualified to run for governor.

Maganto, who is running against reelectionist Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz of Lakas-CMD, is a native of South Cotabato. He married a public school teacher from Bustos town.

In other election cases, a court in Vigan City has installed a new mayor in this town five days before the May 10 elections.

Judge Dominador Arquelada of the Vigan Regional Trial Court said Alfred Figueras won in the 2001 mayoral contest over Mayor Floro Tadena.

"I am very thankful that finally justice has been served to me and my constituents," Figueras told the INQUIRER.

Figueras is not running for any post in the town for the May 10 elections.

Tadena, of the Nationalist People's Coalition, is running for mayor against Vice Mayor Anthony Que of Lakas-Bileg.

Tadena refused to yield his post, saying he has yet to receive official copies of the court's order. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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SAMPLE BALLOT
May 10, 2004

Fill out this ballot secretly inside the booth. Do not put any distinctive mark in any part of this ballot.

President Bro. Eddie Villanueva

Vice-President

Senators
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.

Party-List
Select one from among the Political Parties, Sectoral Parties (Labor, Peasant, Urban Poor, Indegeneous Cultural Communities, Women, Veterans, Elderly, Disabled, Fisherfolk, Overseas Workers, Youth or Professionals), Organizations or Coalition: enumerated in the certified list posted on the voting booth
CIBAC
Citizens' Battle Against Corruption

Congressman
Mayor
Vice-Mayor
Councilors

Sample Ballot No. 31804
Voter's Right Thumbmark

To All Supporters: Please cut or tear the sample ballots along the dotted lines then photocopy seven times (7 x) and give to seven people. If two million of us would be able to do this, we will reach fourteen (14) million people and have a chance of electing a righteous president.

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Binawasan.
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Halalan 2004
Eleksyon na naman. 'Di piring ang ating mga mata sa mga pandarayang tulad ng dagdag-bawas. Dahil dito, 'di lalabas ang tunay na tinig ng tao.
Ngayon, sa Halalan 2004, may sistema ang Comelec laban sa dagdag-bawas.
Gagamit ng mga computers para makuha, at TV monitoring para mabantayan ang bilangan. May VSAT kung saan gagamit ng *satellite transmission* para masiguradong ligtas at mabilis ang pagpapadala ng boto sa lahat ng mga munisipyo at siyudad.
Ang mga ito'y panguro ng Comelec para kung anong ibinoto ay siyn ring bibilangin.
"Boto ating bantayan. Taumbayan, Comelec inyong tulungan upang makamtan malinis na halalan."
– Hon. Benjamin S. Abalos Chairman, COMELEC
Commission on Elections
To find your precinct, visit www.findprecinct.com, or text FindP to 2958 for Globe, 211 for Smart, and 2300 for Sun Cellular
For election results, visit www.halalan2004.net.ph, or text Result to 2993 for Globe and 3396 for Smart

'Hello...' and then the line went dead

From page A1

Police named Edraga's companions as Bernard Plaza, 23, supposedly the second gunman, and Bobby Ibanez, 29, who admitted carrying the grenade. Both Plaza and Ibanez are also from Malabon.

Edraga said the shooting took place before the bus reached the U-turn slot near Camp Crame in Santolan, Quezon City.

Statements from Special Weapons and Tactics members tended to corroborate what Edraga said. A SWAT officer said he did not hear gunfire at the time his team blocked the bus on Edsa corner Boni Avenue, an indication that Passion and Canonicato were shot earlier.

Police were alerted to the holdup through the emergency hotline Patrol 117.

In cahoots

"Someone reported to Patrol 117 about armed men inside a bus. He gave the body number. Patrol 117 called us," said Insp. Cesar Bijona, station duty officer of the Mandaluyong police.

Investigators believe that the bus driver, Urnos Arellano, 43, of Quezon City, conductor Mario Cadiz, 23, of Bustos, Bulacan, and mechanic Roy Abrasaldo, 32, were in cahoots with the holdup men.

Edraga confirmed this, and said his group used a mobile phone to communicate with the driver and the conductor.

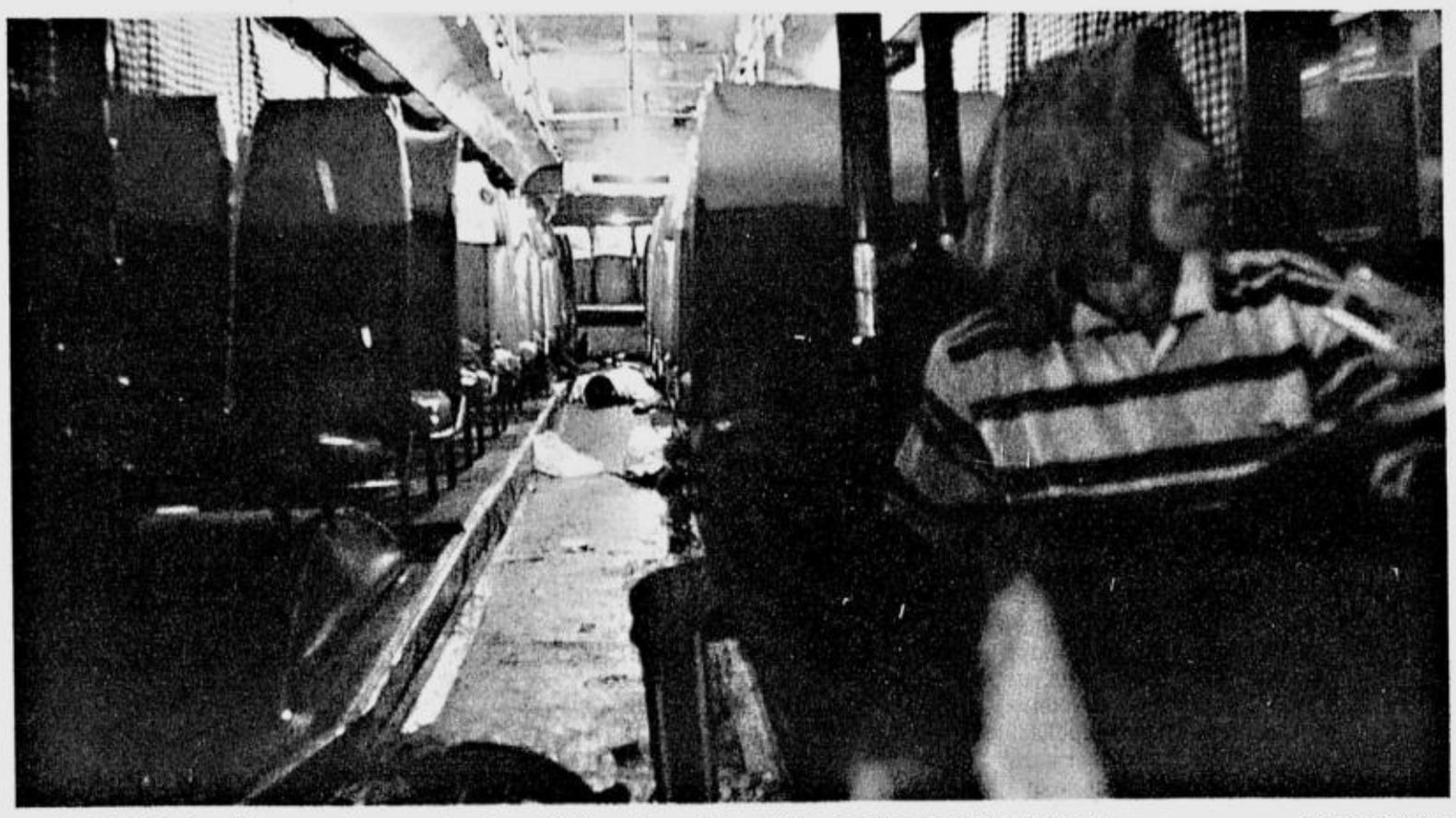
But Cadiz was vehement in disclaiming involvement: "I don't know them. I have never seen them before."

He added that it was the first time that a holdup occurred under his watch.

An intelligence officer told the INQUIRER that Arellano and Cadiz "helped" hide the robbery by closing the curtains on the bus windows and turning off the lights.

Cadiz countered that the gunmen had ordered him and Arellano to do so. "They were armed. We couldn't disobey them," he said.

Police said the other male passengers, who were taken to the police station in handcuffs as a precautionary measure, were released after their statements were taken.



THE REMAINS of a nightmare: An empty Southern Citylines bus, a driver still in shock and a dead passenger. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Danding loses SMC case; Sandigan awards 27% to gov't

From page A1

Cojuangco was connected to the elections. Cojuangco is believed to be supporting opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

In trust for coco farmers

In a 66-page decision, the Sandiganbayan said the shares originally held by 14 companies under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) "are declared owned by the government in trust for all the coconut farmers and ordered reconveyed to the government."

But the court has yet to decide whether the CIIF shares represent 27 percent or 31.3 percent of the company's outstanding capital stock. The discrepancy represents dividends earned by the shares over the years.

The PCGG, the agency tasked with the recovery of stolen government funds, sequestered the 27 percent CIIF shares, along with the 20 percent held by Cojuangco in 1986, claiming they were illegally acquired using the coconut levy funds.

The PCGG argued that Cojuangco used part of the coconut levy to buy the 20 percent block for himself and the CIIF shares belonged to the state because the levy was a government tax.

Cojuangco in 1999 won provisional control over the disputed 20 percent, allowing him to return as the SMC chair and chief executive after a 12-year absence. But the court has yet to decide on the ownership of the shares.

Cojuangco controls the company's 15-seat board, with the help of shareholders supportive of him, including Japan's Kirin Brewery which holds a 15 percent stake in SMC.

Jubilant

Small coconut farmers groups were "jubilant" about the ruling, said Philippine Peasant Institute executive director Romeo Royandoyan.

He said the ruling "effectively settles" the question of ownership of the coco levy assets.

"The small coconut farmers are confident that this ruling would definitely set a precedent in settling the dispute over the ownership of the other 20 percent shares in SMC that Cojuangco claims to be his," Royandoyan said.

Credit goes to PCGG

Royandoyan also credited the PCGG, "the staunchest defenders of the coconut farmers," for the legal victory.

"The PCGG's perseverance in pursuing the recovery of the coconut levy contributed a lot to the triumph of the small coconut farmers," he said.

The court in effect granted the motion filed in 2003 by the PCGG seeking a partial summary judgment to end the litigation over the contested coco levy funds.

The ruling was penned by Sandiganbayan First Division chair Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro and concurred in by Associate Justices Diosdado Peralta and Francisco Villaruz.

In its ruling, the court held that the investments made by the United Coconut Planters Bank in the CIIF companies using the coconut levy funds violated the purpose for which the levy was originally meant.

"We hold that the CIIF oil mills, the 14 holding companies, and the CIIF block of SMC shares belong to the government," it said.

"The CIIF companies having been acquired with public funds, the 14 CIIF-owned holding companies and all their assets, including the CIIF block of the SMC shares, being public in character, belong to the government," the anti-graft court said.

Cojuangco also claims an indirect stake in the sequestered 27 percent block of shares which are classified as the "Ballares et al" shares, claimed by the so-called "one million coconut farmers."

The Sandiganbayan ruled that the "distribution for free of the shares of stock of the CIIF companies" was tainted with constitutional infirmities.

"The incorporating equity or capital of the 14 holding companies, which were allegedly used also for the acquisition of the SMC shares, being wholly owned by the CIIF companies, likewise form part of the coconut levy funds, and thus belong to the government in trust for the ultimate beneficiaries thereof, which are all coconut farmers," the court said.

Burden of proof

The Sandiganbayan told defense lawyers that they had the burden of proof "to show how shares acquired through the use of public funds have legitimately become their private property."

Before issuing its decision, the court denied a plea from SMC lawyers to have a full trial on the disputed 25.45 million shares which the company supposedly purchased from the CIIF companies shortly before the government sequestered the 27 percent block of shares in 1986.

The SMC claims that the 25.45 million shares are part of the 27 percent being claimed by the government.

"The nature of the interest claimed by SMC does not warrant its intervention under the Rules of Court," the court said in a 27-page separate resolution issued hours before the court issued the partial preliminary judgment on the 27 percent block of shares.

SMC lawyers have attempted to block the issuance of the preliminary judgment by seeking to intervene in the case involving part of the shares bought from the 14 CIIF firms.

The 25.45 million shares are now being held in the National Treasury and are not earning any dividends. The PCGG is seeking their release and for payment of accruing dividends.

Still pending

Still pending is a separate motion for summary judgment filed by the PCGG covering the 20 percent of SMC shares held by Cojuangco and 39 firms that he owns.

The PCGG motion has not been submitted for resolution because of a number of incidents that the First Division has yet to rule on, including a government appeal of the court's earlier ruling which lifted the freeze orders on the disputed 20-percent block of shares which allowed Cojuangco to vote the shares and regain control of the company.

No change in SMC structure

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ANALYSTS said the Sandiganbayan decision on the ownership of the disputed San Miguel Corp. shares would boost the government's finances.

They also did not see any change in the corporate structure of SMC.

Analysts said the next big question on investors' minds in the wake of the decision awarding to the government the disputed 27 percent share of disputed stock: "Who will buy the [SMC] shares from the government?"

They said the decision would give the government some financial muscle as it would beef up the national coffers.

"This means the government will be free to monetize the sequestered stake which may be worth P47 billion based on market prices," said Jun Tarrobago Jr., vice president for equity research at Philippine Equity Partners.

Other analysts said it might be too soon for the government to start counting its chickens as the ruling could be appealed to the Supreme Court by SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco and his associates.

Some analysts said the timing of the decision was somewhat unusual as it came just a few days before the May 10 elections.

Share prices of SMC were unable to react to the ruling as it was released in the late afternoon after the end of trading. Class B SMC shares fell a peso to P73.50 while Class A shares were unchanged at P59.50.

Analysts said they expected the company's structure to remain unchanged despite yesterday's ruling as Cojuangco, who controls three board seats through the 20 percent he holds, has the support of other stockholders.

Amid earlier reports that the government wanted to take control of SMC, the board last month unanimously voted to keep Cojuangco as chair.

Roco 'miting' in Naga; FPJ in Makati; none for GMA

The University of Manila
546 Mariano V. de los Santos St. Sampaloc, Mla. Ph. 2806
735-5256; 735-5085; Telefax: 735-5089
website: www.univman.edu.ph
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ENROLLMENT ON-GOING, ENTRANCE EXAMINATION IS FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY

COURSES AND DEGREES OFFERED:
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* Bachelor of Laws
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* B. S. in Education major in English; in Filipino; in Mathematics; in Science; in Guidance & Counselling; in Computer Science; in History
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* CPA Board Review
* Criminology Board Review
* Civil Engineering Refresher Course
* Teacher's Board Review (L. E. T.)

Excellence Prestige Quality

From page A1

bowed, Alyansa ng Pag-Asa standard-bearer Raul Roco returned to his roots yesterday, not to seek refuge, but to fire his final shot in his campaign for the presidency.

"I'm very happy to be here," Roco said shortly after he arrived. "I have always begun and ended my political fight in the city of Naga."

Amidst a festive atmosphere, he cautioned the administration against declaring victory ahead of the May 10 polls, saying it should not disregard the voice of the youth.

Youth vote to make difference

"They forgot that 66 percent of the votes are from people below 44," Roco said. "That is on the basis of an 80-percent turnout, which is very high, which is something like 33 million."

"Sixty-six percent of that is like 23 million voters. If 50 percent go to Roco from the youth vote alone that will be 11.5 million, and the youth will make the change in the Philippines."

Supporters, who gathered at the airport as early as 10 a.m., cheered and chanted as the twin-engine Beechcraft carrying Roco, his wife Sonia and an aide hovered at about 1 p.m. over the airport in Pili town in Camarines Sur.

Actor Fernando Poe Jr. of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino plans to hold his own "Miting de Avance" today in the Makati business district—in the very heart of the country's big business, which questions his fitness to govern.

Terrorist threat

For security reasons, President Macapagal-Arroyo will not hold any *miting de avance*. Instead, she plans to appear in the final rallies of the administration's local candidates in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Speaker Jose de Venecia told the INQUIRER last Tuesday that terrorist threats to carry out bombings before the elections had led the administration party to rethink its plans for a grand rally.

Rally, thing of the past

For some, the tradition of holding a Miting de Avance to cap an election campaign may soon be a thing of the past.

Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday said this year's campaign had shown that it was better to splurge on buying media time and media space than spending money to mount political rallies.

"The utility value to me [of political rallies] is much less today than it was say, 10 years ago, because the exposure in media can get you more votes," Drilon said.

"The return on your expense in your media campaign is much higher than the peso you spent for rallies."

Roco was welcomed at the airport by his brothers—Camarines Sur Rep. Cho Roco and Facundo—children Rex, Ponjun and Neena, and Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, a longtime friend.

Roco served as congressman in Camarines Sur before he ran for senator and won in 1992.

Sea of supporters

From the airport, Roco motored to the town proper of Pili en route to Naga City accompanied by more than 100 vehicles carrying supporters clad in white and yellow.

The motorcade stopped several times to allow Roco to shake hands with his constituents, who chanted his name and flashed the Alyansa hand sign.

Bicolanos treated him like a show biz star as women and children went shrieking after him, some grabbing his hands and others chasing his Toyota Prado SUV.

At the rally, one of the country's top bands, South Border, serenaded him with the popular ballad "Rainbow."

Roco's running mate, Herminio Aquino, and his seven senatorial candidates could not make it to the rally. They had gone to their own baliwicks to firm up support for Alyansa.

'Miting de kumbinse'

But they had a taped "miting de kumbinse" to be aired today at 8:30 a.m. on GMA 7, 9:30 a.m. on ABS-CBN 2, at 11 a.m. on ANC news channel, and on AM radio stations nationwide.

Roco had a brief stop at Naga's Basilica Minor to pray before the Lady of Peñafrancia, before he and his entourage proceeded to Naga's Plaza Quezon for the Miting de Avance.

The former senator's ratings in opinion surveys had fallen sharply after he suspended his campaign last month to undergo treatment in the United States for the recurrence of prostate cancer.

Roco's caravan created a huge traffic jam as it made its way through a sea of supporters and bystanders, who jammed the road circling the plaza.

Speaking against a backdrop of a giant picture of him painted over the nation's tricolors, Roco said that he had always gained strength whenever his feet touched Bicol's soil.

Wife Sonia said: "I think yes (we will win)."

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES MUST BE A PERSON OF UNQUESTIONABLE INTEGRITY AND HONESTY!

Do you want a Vice President who lacks integrity and honesty?

LOOK AT WHAT THE HEADLINES HAVE TO SAY...

Shun corrupt officials - Bishop Rosales

A2 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The eastern section of Luzon will experience rains and occasional gusty winds with moderate to occasionally rough seas. The rest of Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/22/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second **FRONTPAGE**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Another Noli accuser surfaces

By Michael Lim Ubac

ANOTHER alleged extortion victim of vice presidential candidate N… tro surfaced yesterday to denounce the senator for supposedly asking… lion from him in exchange for a favorable feature on his prime-time … fairs program 'Magandang Gabi Bayan'.

…f the affidavit was …

…mment, De Castro … st accusation against … vated."

…awyer Jesse Andre…

Charity group set to file graft raps against Noli

By Norman Bordadora

OFFICIALS of a charity group yesterday accused administration vice presidential candidate Sen. Noli de Castro of trying to force the group to join the Kabayan Foundation … ₱3.5 million in exchange for …

Election surveys showed De Cast… opposition candidate Sen. Loren … the vice presidential race.

The officers of the foundation … sworn affidavit in support of possib… charges to be filed against the sen…

"This is not to get back (at De C… warning to Filipinos who still bel… Castro is clean," the affidavit read… group was referring to an… allegedly …

Lie test for Noli

AN accuser of vice presidential bet Senator Noli de Castro yesterday challenged him to take a lie-detector test to determine if he is really innocent of the extortion charges against him.

Businessman Rafael Engle posted the challenge for the benefit of the public.

He expressed confidence that if de Castro accepts the challenge, he would surely flunk the test.

"That's why I believe Noli would never agree to be tested," he said.

Engle was imprisoned for seven years based on accusations that he was responsible for the di…

KASONG KINAKAHARAP NI KABAYAN...

'Just tip of iceberg'

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

VOL. XVIII NO. 233 • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2004 • 11 SECTIONS, 86 PAGES P15 MM

Noli faces P3.5-M extortion charge

By DELON PORCALLA

…officials of Bagong Lahi… no Development Foun… Inc. (BLDFI), claimed … astro attempted to ex… 3.5 million from foun… president Alvin Al… sometime in January …

their two… the grou… used his…

KABAYAD? Nagsampa ng kaso sa Ombudsman ang bagong lahi kasabay ng kilos protesta hinggil sa extortion ni Kabayan Noli De Castro.
Kuha ni BONG ROY

Batang putol ang kamay at paa biniktima raw ni Kabayan

Galit na lumatad kahapon ang pamilya ng isang 13-anyos na batang lalaki na putol ang dalawang kamay at paa dahil ginamit umano ito ni K-4 vice presidential bet Kabayan Noli de Castro sa umano'y pangangalap ng tulong mula sa manonood ng programang "Magandang Gabi Bayan" (MGB) noong aktibo pa ito sa broadcasting sa Dos.

Ang kalunos-lunos na kalagayan ng batang si Peter Barcelona ng Brgy. Bahte, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro ay ipinalabas umano ni Kabayan …

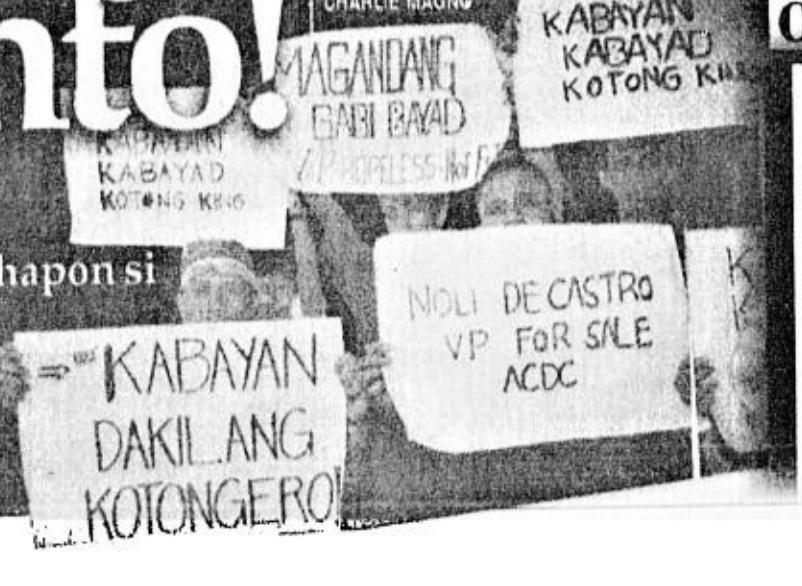
Sa kasong pangongotong...

Noli Boy, inasunto!

By UNANG HIRIT REPORTORIAL TEAM

PORMAL nang kinasuhan kahapon si K-4 vice presidentiable Noli de Castro ng pangongotong at blackmail sa Office of the Ombudsman. Sundan sa page 2

STOP KOTONG. Nilusob kahapon ng mga ralyista ang opisina ng Ombudsman, habang isinasagawa doon ang pagsasampa ng kaso laban kay Sen. Noli de Castro.
PHOTO BY CHARLIE MAGNO



Foundation accuses Noli of extortion, blackmail

Noli tagged in abortion try

NOLI de Castro's former wife has accused him of trying to abort her child when she was impregnated by the administration vice presidential candidate when she was 16 years old only.

Pacita "Baby" Torralba told re-

The vice presidency is the backdoor to the presidency.
It's time to close the backdoor on the
DISHONEST and the **CORRUPT!**

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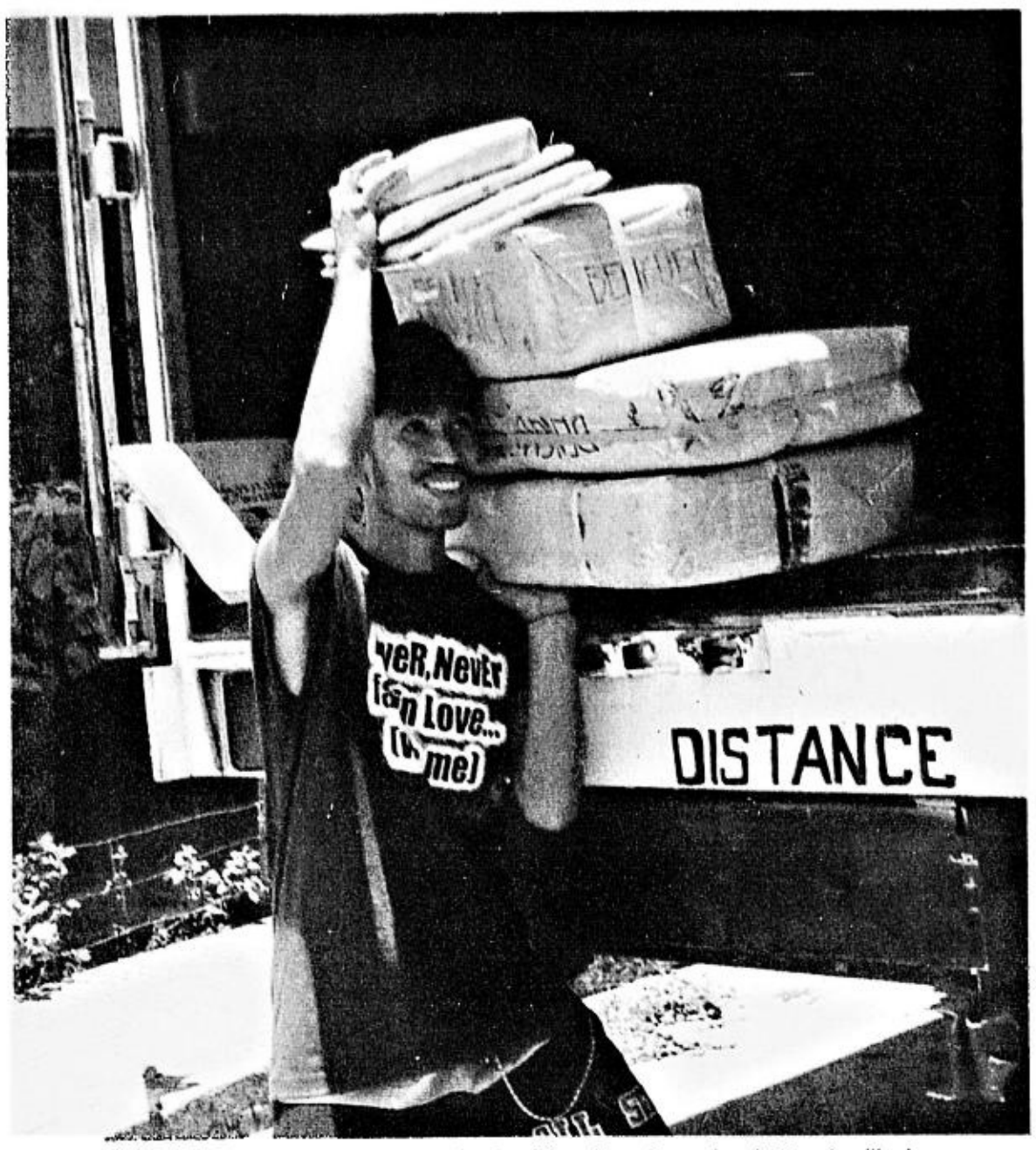

DELIVERY man unloads election materials at the Cordillera Comelec regional office. It will take two more days to reach far-flung villages in the Cordilleras. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Has Gringo dumped FPJ? Sample ballots show Guardians back GMA

From page A1

ter and stern critic of the administration, was characteristically coy when sought for an explanation.

At first, he said the PGBI was circulating several kinds of sample ballots.

Then he said the sample ballots endorsing Ms Macapagal could have been printed by "friends who have adopted us."

"It could be an act of goodwill for the Guardians and we welcome it," Honasan said, adding that such goodwill was the "result of the long years of our engagement in this murky world of politics."

The PGBI source said at least 500,000 of the sample ballots had been printed and that more was being printed yesterday

The source declined to provide a copy of Honasan's letter to the PGBI, a fraternity of mostly active soldiers and policemen, or retired military and police personnel and sympathetic civilians.

Still with FPJ

Honasan clarified that he was still the security chief of Poe and the head guardian of the ballots for the KNP during the voting and counting.

But he said that "our principal concern is to protect the vote of all candidates, whether they be administration or opposition."

Honasan said that he wanted to see a majority president emerging from the elections, as only a president with a clear mandate would have the "moral authority to convene a government of national unity."

The day before he signed the May 3 covenant with Honasan, De Venecia announced that the President and the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, whom he clearly expected to prevail on May 10, would form a "government of national unity" after the polls.

Power sharing

He said this unity government would harness "the best and brightest" from the opposition under the principle of "power sharing."

Senior deputy presidential chief of staff Rene Velasco, one of the Malacañang officials who negotiated with Honasan and mutinous junior officers during the failed coup of July 2003, said the covenant was part of the administration's reconciliation program.

Honasan is facing rebellion charges for his alleged role in that failed coup.

Velasco said Honasan is aiming to become a party-list congressman, "so he can be part of the government of national unity and that is part of the reconciliation program of the President".

The Guardians' senatorial bets from the K-4 are former trade secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas, reelectionist senators Rodolfo Biazon, Robert Barbers and Robert Jaworski, former defense secretary Orlando Mercado, and Parouk Hussin, governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

From the KNP, the PGBI picked former actress Boots Anson-Roa, former agriculture secretary Salvador Escudero, former Muslim youth leader Amina Rasul, reelectionist Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen.

Religious vote to swing it for GMA, says think tank

From page A1

The education and research organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii, was established by the US Congress in 1960 to promote better ties between the US and the Asia-Pacific region through study, training and research.

Never before

A May 6 report quoting East-West Center senior fellow Victor Ordoñez said charismatic groups "never figured this significantly in elections before. Ms Macapagal has been bending over backward to these groups and they will help her win."

The President recently received the backing of the bloc voting Iglesia Ni Cristo, the Philippine Independent Catholic Church and the El Shaddai Movement which the Center said could be her "swing vote" in the tightly contested presidential elections.

The report also noted that another charismatic group, the Jesus is Lord Movement, had been making waves in the current campaign with its leader, Eddie Villanueva, mounting a determined bid for the presidency.

Waning influence

"These splinter religious organizations have emerged as a more potent political force than the Catholic Church whose influence has waned visibly since 1986 when it led the Edsa people power revolution," Ordoñez said.

He blamed this on "the great disillusionment" among Filipino Catholics who comprise 85 percent of the population, and the void in its leadership. "No one has replaced the outspoken leadership of Cardinal Jaime Sin," said Ordoñez, a former director of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization and chair of the Presidential Commission on Education Reform in the Philippines.

These groups have flourished largely because the Catholic Church had fallen short in meeting the modern spiritual needs of its flock, Ordoñez added. "Although Filipinos still attend Mass, they have a thirst for religion that is not being filled by traditional religious organizations. Prayer groups that were little pockets here and there have become mass movements," he said.

No significant difference

While the "power brokers" might be changing, the East-West Center believes the next presidential election was unlikely to change the Philippine political system that has created great wealth for a few and poverty for many.

In an earlier report, East-West Center Philippine specialist Jerry Finin said that it was the poor who suffer in the end when national leadership is lacking. "The outcome of the election is unlikely to make a significant difference for the poor majority," he said.

Congressmen from the ruling Lakas party, on the other hand, said endorsements by the Iglesia ni Cristo, El Shaddai and the Aglipayan Church of the President's candidacy would seal her victory on May 10.

Majority win?

Marikina Rep. Del de Guzman and Manila Rep. Ernesto Nieva said the elections would be a chance to prove the bloc-voting power of these religious groups as shown in the 1998 elections when their endorsements helped in the victory of former President Joseph Estrada.

De Guzman said the support of the religious groups would be instrumental in achieving the administration coalition's goal of a majority win for her. The INC is estimated to deliver two million votes, and the El Shaddai, three million.

"These endorsements were tantamount to giving the President a vote of confidence," said Nieva, adding that Ms Macapagal deserved these since "she has been a consistent advocate of national reconciliation and healing which was the focus of their (charismatic groups) teachings." *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Bishops bare 'forced ...

From page A1

presence of their superiors and under threat of reprisal if they did not write the names of certain candidates or sign the ballots.

The coalition, however, did not identify the candidates that would supposedly benefit from the forced absentee voting, the disenfranchised ballots or the manipulated results.

To prevent bigger fraud

The officers allegedly said "elections were finished" in some areas, meaning the number of votes for certain candidates had already been determined. The cheating will allegedly be done through disappearing or switched ballot boxes.

"We believe that there is already fraud being done, but the fraud that will be done is bigger ... more systematic, more massive, more intense ... And that is what we want to prevent with Operation Tutok," Ernie Ordoñez, deputy director of the coalition composed of 25 member-organizations, said at a press briefing.

Ordoñez, a former trade undersecretary and now chair of the country's biggest organization of farmers and fisherfolk, the Alyansa Agrikultura, said a group of colonels met with the archbishops last week after the coalition was launched to divulge the fraud plan.

Another group of generals met with Vidal even earlier, which led to the creation of the coalition, a Church insider said.

In an interview with the ABS-CBN News Channel, Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, disclaimed knowledge of the military officers' allegations.

"This came to our attention through the media," he said. "We are in the process of tying up with those who would be in a position to know ... so we can validate and verify the allegations."

Garcia said the military was "politically neutral."

"What the [AFP] has to do is to make sure that there is a level playing field for those who are competing in the elections. The important thing that the [AFP] must do is protect the people's will," he added.

Is it the administration?

According to the coalition for HOPE, those behind the planned cheating have developed a strategy to manipulate elections in critical areas such as the Calabarzon provinces (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), the Ilocos, Central Visayas and Southern Mindanao based on the strength and weakness of certain candidates.

The plan also allegedly called for mind-conditioning and fixing. Supposedly, while the election returns are being physically brought to the municipalities, provinces and regions, the encoded data will be manipulated and transmitted via the now disapproved Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) so that these will tally with the tampered returns as well.

"Is the Comelec (Commission on Elections) administration? Is the military administration?" was all coalition director Antonio de los Reyes said when asked if it was the administration that was orchestrating the alleged fraud plan.

But he also noted that the administration was making similar accusations of fraud against the opposition, and cited the remarks of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales in an interview Thursday.

Overprinting

De los Reyes said the coalition had received reports that the Comelec allowed the overprinting of two million ballots that could not be accounted for, and that "at least one top official of the Comelec" recently distributed overprinted blank certificates of canvass (COCs) and certificates of election returns (CERs) "to replace authentic returns with fraudulent forms."

De los Reyes, who is also president of the Catholic Serviam community foundation, also decried the subcontracting of accountable forms such as COCs and CERs to private companies, saying only the National Printing Office was authorized to print these.

But Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra challenged the coalition to prove its accusations and to name names.

"If the bishops and the military ... have monitored these and have intelligence reports, and they can name names, then give us the names of these crooked officials inside and outside the Comelec. We will not hesitate to prosecute them," Borra said, adding:

"These ... nameless high Comelec officials' part of the fraud plot should now be exposed ... We owe it to our country and our people, so that when we pontificate about clean, honest elections, the very officials that are running the elections must be first honest and clean."

Hours after Borra made his remarks, Alyansa ng Pag-asa senatorial candidate Melanio "Batas" Mauricio showed up at the Comelec office in Intramuros and turned over election documents to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

Mauricio said he wanted the Comelec to investigate the five envelopes of COCs that were supposed to be used by the provincial board of canvassers and five statements of votes by city or municipality.

He said the documents, including a letter, were thrown into his yard by an unknown person yesterday morning.

In the letter, the presumed sender said the other envelopes and statements of votes were already at the Senate, where the COCs are supposed to be deposited.

Civilian participation

The coalition for HOPE said the military officers had suggested massive civilian participation in poll watching. They said the people should keep an eye on the military personnel assigned to secure the precincts and transport ballot boxes and election returns.

"[The military officers] reported to the archbishops because they felt that this was a moral question where integrity and character are at stake. They said they loved the country and wanted to do what is right but they could not because of the forces around them" Ordoñez said.

Vidal called on his fellow bishops and archbishops to rally the people in their dioceses for Operation Tutok and place poll watchers in all precincts.

He said he would also ask Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, to notify the 85 bishops so that all volunteers from the dioceses could be trained by Sunday.

"I hope the parish priests would have the courage to do this because this is not a joke. This is serious, if we want a future for our country and our children," Vidal said.

2,792 parishes

Operation Tutok will recruit its poll watchers from 2,792 parishes nationwide for the 216,519 precincts.

The coalition said the parishes would likely get more than what was needed for the operation.

"If we do not get involved, [the military officers] will be forced to participate. What will they tell their boss? Those who did not obey have already been sanctioned in one way or another," Ordoñez said.

He quoted the officers as saying: "We do not want to do this... We are underpaid, our lives are threatened. In addition, we are asked to do something we do not want to do.

"Please help us so that we can tell our superiors, 'We are sorry, we cannot do that because people are watching us.' If you do not help us, we have no choice but to follow the orders of our superiors.'"

Ordoñez said he had seen "a lot" of fraud. "But this one is serious, massive ... Ask the PPCRV (Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting) and Namfrel (National Movement for Free Elections), and they will tell you that this is the worst election ever," he said.

Ping cries 'fraud'

By Norman Bordadora

CATBALOGAN, Samar—Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday cried election fraud and threatened to formally protest the conduct of absentee voting in regional police facilities nationwide.

"I can't imagine the PHilippine National Police has stooped so indiscreetly and so low that [its officers] will do anything to lick the boots of their patroness in Malacañang. This is not a healthy sign," the presidential candidate said of the absentee voting that he said was conducted on April 28 and 29 in police camps.

"If this is a preview of the massive cheating that will be committed by this administration, then the elections would be sham," he told reporters.

The Lacson camp has received information that the absentee voting among police personnel was conducted through open balloting, with the superior officers taking note of who the policemen were voting for.

Lacson said that while the PNP had been deputized by the Commission on Elections, it could not have conducted the absentee voting without the presence of Comelec representatives.

"It's illegal," he said, adding:

"We will file an election protest to have the absentee voting among policemen nullified."

He also said his camp was now securing affidavits from the PNP personnel involved.

Gloria not impressed ...

From page A1

speculated that Ms Macapagal could never muster a crowd as big as Villanueva's.

"That's an interesting commentary, thank you," Saludo said. "I don't want to speculate on the reasons."

He added that another rally was no longer necessary. "For the past three years, the President has sufficiently expressed her platform of government and has clearly shown her style of leadership," he said.

Saludo made the statement when asked by reporters for Malacañang's reaction to the biggest turnout for any presidential candidate. The crowd was assembled, not by the President who leads in the recent surveys, but by constant tailender Villanueva, leader of the Jesus is Lord Church, who is running for president on a platform of national renewal.

Senate President Franklin Drilon agreed: "Yes, he (Villanueva) has a substantial number of followers, but it is not enough to win the election."

Drilon said surveys have shown that Villanueva has about five percent support for his presidential bid which translates to about 1.5 million to two million votes. He reiterated his prediction that Ms Macapagal would win, with a lead of five to 10 percent or between 1.5 million and three million votes over her closest rival, Fernando Poe Jr.

NCR votes

The latest Pulse Asia survey showed that the President has widened her lead over Poe by 6.6 percent. "That should place her at about two million votes ahead of Poe," he said.

Equally unfazed by the huge crowd turnout in Villanueva's miting de avance, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said he would rely more on the accuracy of surveys than the "vote-getting effect of crowds."

Thursday night's miting de avance showed that Villanueva's group could mobilize a huge number of individuals.

"But a huge crowd and a huge number of individuals do not necessarily result in a national vote," he said. "It could be a National Capital Region vote significantly, but we're talking of the entire country here."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

DELIVERY man unloads election materials at the Cordillera Comelec regional office. It will take two more days to reach far-flung villages in the Cordilleras. TOOTS SOBERANO PDI ... BUREAU

Bishops bare 'forced ...

From page A1

presence of their superiors and under threat of reprisal if they did not write the names of certain candidates or sign the ballots.

The coalition, however, did not identify the candidates that would supposedly benefit from the forced absentee voting, the disenfranchised ballots or the manipulated results

To prevent bigger fraud

The officers allegedly said "elections were finished" in some areas, meaning the number of votes for certain candidates had already been determined. The cheating will allegedly be done through disappearing or switched ballot boxes.

"We believe that there is already fraud being done, but the fraud that will be done is bigger . . more systematic, more massive, more intense And that is what we want to prevent with Operation 'Tutok,' Ernie Ordoñez, deputy director of the coalition composed of 25 member organizations, said at a press briefing.

Ordoñez, a former trade undersecretary and now chair of the country's biggest organization of farmers and fisherfolk, the Alyansa Agrikultura, said a group of colonels met with the archbishops last week after the coalition was launched to divulge the fraud plan

Another group of generals met with Vidal even earlier, which led to the creation of the coalition Church insider said

In an interview with ABS CBN News Channel, Lt Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, disclaimed knowledge of the military officers' allegations

"This came to our attention through the media," he said "We are in the process of tying up with those who would be in a position to know ... so we can validate and verify the allegations"

Garcia said the ... "politically neutral.

"What th[e] [AFP] ... make ... that ... playing field for those who are competing ... tion Th[e] important ... AFP must do ... protec[t] ... will ... he added

Is it the administration?

According to the coalition for HOPE, those behind the planned cheating have developed a strategy to manip[ulate] the elections in critical areas such as t[he] ... la' ... rzo provinces ... Batan[gas] ... Q... Ilocos Cen... Southern Mind[anao] ... stron[g] and ...

The plan ... for m...d-con... ix ... Supposedly, ... election ... turns are bei[ng] physically brou[ght] ...

and regions, the encoded data will be manipulated and transmitted via the now disapproved Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) so that these will tally with the tampered returns as well.

"Is the Comelec (Commission on Elections) administration? Is the military administration?" was all coalition director Antonio de los Reyes said when asked if it was the administration that was orchestrating the alleged fraud plan.

But he also noted that the administration was making similar accusations of fraud against the opposition, and cited the remarks of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales in an interview Thursday.

Overprinting

De los Reyes said the coalition had received reports that the Comelec allowed the overprinting of two million ballots that could not be accounted for, and that "at least one top official of the Comelec recently distributed overprinted blank certificates of canvass (COCs) and certificates of election returns (CERs) to replace authentic returns with fraudulent forms.

De los Reyes ... president of the Catholic Servants community foundation also de... the ... subcontract... of ... countable ... and CERs ... saying ... Office ... these ...

But ... Resat... the coalition to prov... tions and to ...

"If the bishops ... have monitor... satellite ... name ... name ... name of the ... inside ... We ... Th... plot ... own ... peopl... cate... runni... first hou...

Ho... arks ... ng Pa... total ... candidat... Me... Maur... lowed up ... ele... Intl. ... urne ... tion ... to Co... Ma...

... He said t...

yard by an unknown person yesterday morning.

In the letter, the presumed sender said the other envelopes and statements of votes were already at the Senate, where the COCs are supposed to be deposited.

Civilian participation

The coalition for HOPE said the military officers had suggested massive civilian participation in poll watching. They said the people should keep an eye on the military personnel assigned to secure the precincts and transport ballot boxes and election returns.

[The military officers] reported to the archbishops because they felt that this was a moral question where integrity and character are at stake. They said they loved the country and wanted to do what is right but they could not because of the forces around them" Ordoñez said.

Vidal called on his fellow bishops and archbishops to rally the people in their dioceses for Operation Tutok and place poll watchers in all precincts

He said he would also ask Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, to notify the 85 bishops so that ... ll volunteers from the diocese could be trained by Sunday.

... hope the parish priests ... ave the courage to do this ... this is not a joke. This is ... if we want a future for ... country and our children." Vi...

2,792 parishes

Operation Tutok will recruit its poll watchers from 2,792 parishes nationwide for the 216,519 precinct

The coalition said the parishes would likely get more than what is needed for the operation.

"If ... do not get involved, [the ... officers] will be forced to ... What will they tell ... Those who did not ... already been sanc... one way or another." Ord[oñez] said

He quoted the officers as saying "We do not want to do this. We ... underpaid, our lives are threatened. In addition, we are ... do something we do not want to do.

"Pl[ease] help us so that we can ... our superiors. 'We are sorry. ... cannot do that because people are watching us.' If you do not ... we have no choice but to ... orders of our superi[ors]."

... he had seen "a ... "But this one is seri... Ask the PPCRV ... toral Council for Re... Voting, and Namfrel Movement for Free ... and they will tell you ... worst election ev...

Has Gringo dumped FPJ? Sample ballots show Guardians back GMA

From page A1

ter and stern critic of the administration, was characteristically coy when sought for an explanation.

At first he said the PGBI was circulating several kinds of sample ballots

Then he said the sample ballots endorsing Ms Macapagal could have been printed by "friends who have adopted us."

"It could be an act of goodwill for the Guardians and we welcome it," Honasan said, adding that such goodwill was the "result of the long years of our engagement in this murky world of politics."

The PGBI source said at least 500,000 of the sample ballots had been printed and that more was being printed yesterday

The source declined to provide a copy of Honasan's letter to the PGBI, a fraternity of mostly active soldiers and policemen, or retired military and police personnel and sympathetic civilians

Still with FPJ

Honasan clarified that he was still the security chief of Poe and the head guardian of the ballots for the KNP during the voting and counting.

But he said that "our principal concern is to protect the vote of all candidates, whether they be administration or opposition."

Honasan said that he wanted ... see ... majority president emerging from the elections, as only a president with a clear mandate would have the "moral authority to convene a government of national unity."

The day before he signed the May 3 covenant with Honasan, De Venecia announced that the President and the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, whom he clearly expected to prevail on May 10, would form a "government of national unity" after the polls

Power sharing

He said the unity government would harness "the best and brightest" from the opposition under the principle of "power sharing"

Se... deputy presidential ... of Rene Velasco, one of ... Ma[la]cañang officials who negotiated with Honasan and mutinous junior officers during the failed coup of July 2003, said the covenant was part of the administration's reconciliation program.

Honasan is facing rebellion charges for his alleged role in that failed coup.

Velasco said Honasan i[s] aim[ing] to become a party-list congressman, "so he can be part of the government of national unity and that is part of the reconciliation program of the President"

The Guardians' senatorial bets from the K-4 are former trade secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas, reelectionist senators Rodolfo Biazon, Robert Barbers and Robert Jaworski, former defense secretary Orlando Mercado ... Parouk Hussin, governor of the Autonomous Region ... Mus[lim] Mindanao

From the KNP, the PGBI p... former actress Boots Anson-Roa, former agriculture secretary Salvador Escudero, former Muslim youth leader Amina Rasul ... reelectionist Sen Aquilino Pimentel, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Maguindanao Rep Didagen Dilangalen.

Religious vote to swing it for GMA, says think tank

Th... arch o... based ... Honolulu, Ha... established by the ... in 1960 to promote bette... between ... US and the Asia-Pacific region through ... and research.

Never before

... May 6 repor[t] quoting ... senior fellow ... charismatic ... significant ... fore Ms Ma... bending ... the groups ... nd ... help her win."

The President recently received ... backing of the bloc vot... the Philippine ... Catholic Church ... El Shaddai Movement ... Center said could be he... swing vote in the tightly contested presidential elections

The report also noted that another charismatic group, the Jesus Lord Movement, had been making waves in the current campaign with its leader, Eddie Villanueva mounting a determined bid for the presidency.

Waning influence

"These splinter religious organizations have emerged as a more potent political force than the Catholic Church whose influence has waned visibly since 1986 when it led the Edsa people power revolution" Ordoñez said.

He blamed this on "the great disillusionment" among Filipino Catholics who comprise 85 percent of the population, and the void in its leadership. "No one has replaced the outspoken leadership of Cardinal Jaime Sin," said Ordoñez a former director of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization and chair of the Presidential Commission on Education Reform in the Philippines

These groups have flourished largely because the Catholic Church had fallen short in meeting the modern spiritual needs of its flock, Ordoñez added. "Although Filipinos still attend Mass, they have a thirst for religion that is not being filled by traditional religious organizations. Prayer groups that were little pockets here and there have become mass movements" he said.

No significant difference

While the "power brokers" might be changing, the East-West Center believes the next presidential election was unlikely to change the Philippine political system that has created great wealth for a few and poverty for many

In an earlier report, East-West Center Philippine specialist Jerry Finin said that it was the poor who suffer in the end when ... tional leadership is lacking. "The outcome of the election is unlikely to make a significant difference for the poor majority." he said

Congressmen from the ruling Lakas party, on the other hand, said endorsements by the Iglesia ni Cristo, El Shaddai and the Aglipayan Church of the President's candidacy would seal her victory on May 10.

Majority win?

Marikina Rep. Del de Guzman and Manila Rep. Ernesto Nieva said the elections would be a chance to prove the bloc voting power of these religious groups as shown in the 1998 elections when their endorsements helped in the victory of former President Joseph Estrada.

De Guzman said the support of the religious groups would be instrumental in achieving the administration coalition's goal of a majority win for her. The INC is estimated to deliver two million votes, and the El Shaddai, three million

"These endorsements were tantamount to giving the President a vote of confidence," said Nieva, adding that Ms Macapagal deserved these since she has been a consistent advocate of national reconciliation and healing which was the focus of their (charismatic groups') teachings *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Ping cries 'fraud'

By Norman Bordadora

CATBALOGAN ... Panfilo ... esterday ... election ... threater... formal ... onduc... absentee ... nal pc... facilita...

"I ca[n] ... gine the Philippi[ne] National Poli[ce] ... tooped so ... discreetly and so low that [its] officers, will do anything to lick the boots of their patrons ... in Malacañang Th... not healthy ...

... repc... The La... rmation ... mong pol... ducted the ... the super...

... were voting for. ... while the PNP ... ed by the Com... ... it could not ... the absentee vot... presence of Com-

... sentee ... otti... emen nullifies... ... amp was now ... from the PNP

Gloria not impressed ...

spec... Macapa... muster... Villan...

"That's ... ting comm... you." Sal... don't want t... the reason.

He added t... nother ral... ... "For the past three years ... and I ... own I ... ship, he said

Saludo made the statement w... porter for Malacañang's reaction to th[e] turnout ... presidential ... and ... crowd w... embled, not by the Pre... leads in the recent surveys but by ... ender Villanueva ... leader ... Church, who ... running for pre... form of national renewal

Senate President Franklin Dri[lon] ... he (Villanueva) has ... substantial ... lowers, but it ... ough to win the ...

Drilon said surveys have shown that ...

Ma...

... two ... that Ms ... of five to 10 ... three million ... Poe ...

NCR votes

... that the ... Poe by 6.6 ...

... Majori... ould rely ...

... showed ... uge ...

But ... "It ... d be ... number of individu... national vote ... he ... pital Region vote signi... country here"

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES MUST BE A PERSON OF UNQUESTIONABLE INTEGRITY AND HONESTY!

Do you want a Vice President who lacks integrity and honesty?

LOOK AT WHAT THE HEADLINES HAVE TO SAY...

Shun corrupt officials - Bishop Rosales

A2 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The eastern section of Luzon will experience rains and occasional gusty winds with moderate to occasionally rough seas. The rest of Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/22/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Another Noli accuser surfaces

By Michael Lim Ubac

ANOTHER alleged extortion victim of vice presidential candidate N
tro surfaced yesterday to denounce the senator for supposedly aski
lion from him in exchange for a favorable feature on his prime-time
fairs program 'Magandang Gabi Bayan.'

Charity group set to file graft raps against Noli

By Norman Bordadora

OFFICIALS of a charity group yesterday accused administration vice presidential candidate Sen. Noli de Castro of trying to force the group to join the Kabayan Foundation

Election surveys showed De Cast
opposition candidate Sen. Loren
the vice presidential race.

The officers of the foundation
sworn affidavit in support of possib
charges to be filed against the sen
"This is not to get back (at De C
warning to Filipinos who still bel
Castro is clean," the affidavit rea
group was referring to an

Lie test for Noli

AN accuser of vice presidential bet Senator Noli de Castro yesterday challenged him to take a lie-detector test to determine if he is really innocent of the extortion charges against him.

Businessman Rafael Engle posted the challenge for the benefit of the public.

He expressed confi

that if de Castro accepts the challenge, he would surely flunk the test.

"That's why I believe Noli would never agree to be tested," he said.

Engle was imprisoned for seven years based on accusations that he was responsible for the disappea

KASONG KINAKAHARAP NI KABAYAN...
'Just tip of iceberg'

http://www.philstar.com e-mail: feedback@philstar.net.ph

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL
VOL. XVIII NO. 233 • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2004 • 11 SECTIONS, 86 PAGES P15 MM

Noli faces P3.5-M extortion charge

By DELON PORCALLA

officials of Bagong Lahi
no Development Foun-
Inc. (BLDFI), claimed
astro attempted to ex-
3.5 million from foun-
president Alvin A
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KABAYAD? Nagsampa ng kaso sa Ombudsman ang bagong lahi kasabay ng kilos protesta hinggil sa extortion ni Kabayan Noli De Castro.
Kuha ni BONG ROY

Batang putol ang kamay at paa biniktima raw ni Kabayan

Galit na lumatad kahapon ang pamilya ng isang 13-anyos na batang lalaki na putol ang dalawang kamay at paa dahil ginamit umano ito ni K-4 vice presidential bet Kabayan Noli de Castro sa umano'y pangangalap ng tulong mula sa manonood ng programang "Magandang Gabi Bayan" (MGB) noong aktibo pa ito sa broadcasting sa Dos.

Ang kalunos-lunos na kalagayan ng batang si Peter Barcelona ng Brgy. Balite, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro ay ipinalabas umano ni Kabayan

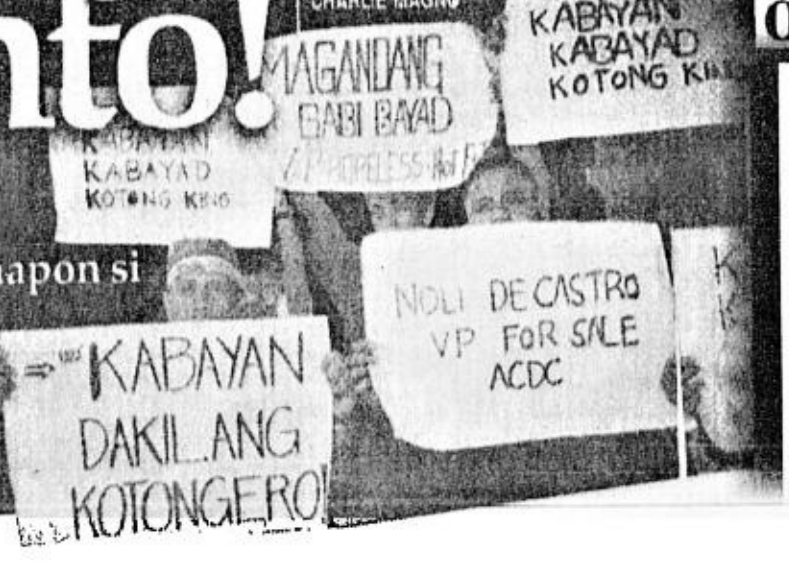
Sa kasong pangongotong... Noli Boy, inasunto!

By UNANG HIRIT REPORTORIAL TEAM

PORMAL nang kinasuhan kahapon si K-4 vice presidentiable Noli de Castro ng pangongotong at blackmail sa Office of the Ombudsman.

Sundan sa page 2

STOP KOTONG. Nilusob kahapon ng mga ralyista ang opisina ng Ombudsman, habang isinasagawa doon ang pagsasampa ng kaso laban kay Sen. Noli de Castro.
PHOTO BY CHARLIE MAGNO



Foundation accuses Noli of extortion, blackmail

Noli tagged in abortion try

NOLI de Castro's former wife has accused him of trying to abort her child when she was impregnated by the administration vice presidential candidate when she was 16 years old only.

Pacita "Baby" Torralba told re-

The vice presidency is the backdoor to the presidency.
It's time to close the backdoor on the
DISHONEST and the **CORRUPT!**

BANTAY BISE

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

FOUR DIGIT
3 8 1 7
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
6 1 9

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

MEGALOTTO 6/45
5 6 7 10 19 38

Voters urged to troop to polling centers early to avoid hassles on election day

By Leila B. Salaverria

ELECTION day is expected to be hectic in more ways than one, and police are advising the public to turn up at the polling precincts early so that they would have an easier time casting their votes.

. Western Police District spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod said Manila residents would have an easier time casting their votes on Monday if they arrived early rather than late.

"People should avoid the rush in the afternoon. Also, by coming to the precincts early in the day, those who would have trouble locating their names or their precincts would have enough time to fix the problem," he said in an interview.

Voting would begin at 8:00 a.m. and would end at 3:00 p.m.

Agunod also said that those going to the polling precincts should leave their firearms and bladed or other dangerous weapons at home or else they would not be allowed inside.

Policemen would be staying at least 50 meters away from the polling places in observance of the regulations of the Commission on Elections, but Agunod said there would still be other personnel and volunteers taking care of security inside the polling precincts.

Security preparations in Metro Manila have been stepped up in the wake of reports of planned terrorist attacks in the area and the recent arrest in Intramuros of two suspected Abu Sayyaf members who were carrying an improvised explosive.

Agunod said that while the district was on high alert and all available men would be deployed on Monday, the public should also do its part to keep the city safe.

Agunod said Manila residents should keep their eyes open for any suspicious people or packages left lying around polling precincts or vital installations. When something suspicious is spotted, people should immediately call the police of Patrol 117, he added.

Police say Caloocan bombing plot foiled

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE NORTHERN Police District Office (NPDO) announced yesterday they foiled a plan to bomb a political rally of Caloocan City mayoral candidate Rep. Edgar Erice.

The suspects are Erice's brother, Ernesto, and Edgardo Rivera, a retired policeman, also an Erice supporter.

Police investigators are looking into the possibility that the suspects were planning to bomb Erice's rally to gain "sympathy votes" for the mayoral aspirant.

Erice and the two arrested suspects denied the allegations.

Incendiary bombs

NPD director Marcelino Franco told the INQUIRER that they confiscated two improvised incendiary bombs from a multicab being driven by Ernesto about 11 p.m. Thursday. He was on his way to his brother's rally in Morning Breeze Subdivision.

The bombs were inside plastic gallons filled with gasoline, armed with a detonator, a timer and batteries.

Police later arrested Rivera, who allegedly came up with the plan.

Franco said he received information about the planned bombing on May 3. The informant, a bomb expert, told Franco he was consulted by some of Erice's men for the planned bombing.

On Thursday, the informant said the plan would be placed in a multicab, which would be parked near the rally for detonation.

But Ernesto claimed that he was being framed and that his arrest was politically motivated.

Planted?

He claimed that a van blocked his path Thursday night and about eight men of the Special Weapons and Tactics team told him to get out of the cab.

On their way to the district headquarters, the operatives told him he was carrying bombs, Ernesto said.

Rivera said he did not know anything about the bombs.

Erice said the bombs could have been planted. "My brother has no motive nor capability to detonate bombs," he added.

But Franco said the police did not have any motive to plant evidence.

"We are apolitical and we are only interested in ensuring the safety of our people," he added.

Votes for 'Bong,' 'Eddie' may not count–poll exec

By Tarra Quismundo

VOTES for "Bong" or "Eddie" will not be counted when the canvassing starts in Binondo, Quiapo, and Sta. Cruz in Manila.

"I have not received any orders from the head office," said Manila District 3 election officer Calixto Ramos, referring to whom the votes for "Bong" or "Eddie" will go during the tally.

Senatorial candidates Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. of the K-4 Coalition, and Olivia "Bong" Coo of Alyansa ng Pag-Asa, are fighting to get the credit for a vote for "Bong."

Stray vote

In the case of "Eddie," Ramos said that in the absence of a Comelec order giving it to presidential aspirant Eddie Villanueva, such a vote would be considered as a stray vote and not counted even with the disqualification fellow aspirant Eddie Gil.

"I would follow the law," said Ramos, also a university law professor.

Eddie Gil's name was even stamped in the official list of candidates that his office distributed to its 734 boards of election inspectors (BEI) yesterday.

"Although Eddie Gil was disqualified, there is no order to delete his name," Ramos pointed out.

Name change

Explaining his resolve, Ramos said that Revilla's petition approved on April 24 was "only for change of alias from Kap to Bong."

"The (Comelec) resolution did not order the BEI to count "Bong" for Revilla," said Ramos.

But, he said, if a vote for "Bong" is coupled with an initial, for instance "Bong R" (Revilla) or "Bong C" (Coo), then the BEI would know where the vote would go.

Ramos said he was waiting for the Comelec to give him written instructions on what he should do regarding the votes for "Bong" and "Eddie."

UNTIRING CAMPAIGN
Supporters of two senatorial aspirants spare no place in putting up posters of their bets. REUTERS

Joey named Lakas bet in Parañaque

By Marinel Cruz

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) has ruled that Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez is the official candidate of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats for the congressional seat in the city's second district.

The Comelec ruling is tantamount to denial of the motion filed by former National Security Adviser Roilo Golez that he be declared as the official Lakas candidate in the city.

Bitter rivalry

Marquez, a former vice mayor and three-term mayor of Parañaque, and Golez are bitter rivals for the newly-created district of Parañaque.

Marquez said he had expected the Comelec to rule in his favor saying Golez had ran under different parties in the past.

"*Ini-expect ko na 'yan dahil* never *naging* Lakas member *si* Golez (I expected the ruling because Golez never became a member of Lakas)," the former mayor told the INQUIRER.

Denied due course

The Comelec decision sustained the recommendation of Atty. Esmeralda A. Ladra that the second nomination of Lakas-CMD filed by Golez on January 15, 2004, be denied due course.

Ladra said the petition of Golez was filed out of time.

She pointed out that It was made ten days from the last day of the filing certificates of candidacy.

The Comelec ruling was signed by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and Commissioners G. Rufino, S. B. Javier, Mehol Sadain, Resurrecion Borra and Florentino Tuason Sr.

"Let the law deparment implement this order," further stated the Comelec resolution.

Marquez said he learned of the resolution only on Thursday.

Poll watchers

Because of this Comelec ruling, Marquez will be the official congressional candidate of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Parañaque's second district.

The ruling will also mean that Marquez will be afforded official poll watchers by the Comelec.

Ed Zialcita is the official Lakas candidate for the city's District 1.

Rizal town candidate abducted by 4 suspects

WITH TWO days to go before election day, four armed men abducted a mayoral candidate in Baras, Rizal, on Thursday night, the police confirmed yesterday.

Sr. Supt. Leocadio Santiago, Rizal Police chief, identified the victim as 46-year-old Ulysses R. Olano, the official candidate of the Liberal Party and a resident of Barangay Evangelista.

The police are still investigating the motive behind the abduction, according to Baras Police chief Sr. Insp. Ricardo Morada.

"Neither Olano nor his abductors have contacted the police or his family," Morada said.

Olano, an engineer, is challenging incumbent Mayor Dindo Garciano and Vice Mayor Willy Robles. He is considered to be the least likely to capture the mayoralty post.

The police said the suspects, inside a dark blue Mitsubishi Lancer, blocked the path of Olano's Ford Ranger along an unpopulated stretch of road.

Olano's companions told the police that four bonnet-wearing men got off the car and ordered them to open the Ford Ranger.

The suspects carried M-16 rifles and a 45mm caliber pistol.

The police said the abductors might also have made off with some P700,000 in campaign funds being carried by Olano. *Luige del Puerto*

Robbers wore PNP uniform

EIGHT men wearing security guard and police uniforms robbed a China Bank branch in Marulas, Valenzuela, even before the bank could open yesterday morning.

City police chief Jose Marcelo said the suspects entered the bank's compound about 6:40 a.m. through the steel gate at the back, where all employees enter.

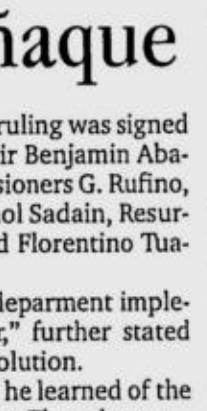
The bank's guards allowed the first four suspects to enter because two of them were armed with rifles and were wearing guard uniforms of the detailed guards' agency. The other two robbers wore traffic police uniforms while the other robbers remained outside.

Once inside, the robbers disarmed and hogtied the detailed guards.

Posing as guards, the robbers waited for the employees to get in the bank. They announced the holdup only when the employees who knew the vault's combination had arrived. *Edson Tandoc Jr. and Cyril Bonabente*

My candidates

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo



MANY people I meet on the streets and in places I go to ask me who I will vote for on E-Day, Monday, May 10.

I give them not a straightforward answer but a teaser or a hint in my choice of President and Vice President.

For President, I said I will definitely NOT vote for a religious man with a messianic complex. Neither will I vote for a murderer, a very sick man and a high school dropout.

For vice president, I will NOT vote for a candidate who was selected by his party because there was no other guy around. Neither will I vote for a candidate who can't speak English.

* * *

But for senators, I am very certain about my choices: Aquilino Pimentel, Robert Barbers, John Osmeña, Rodolfo Biazon, Juan Ponce Enrile, Orlando Mercado, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Alfredo Lim, Frank Chavez, Mar Roxas, Pia Cayetano and Richard Gordon.

What are my reasons for selecting the above-named senatorial candidates?

Nene Pimentel and Bobby Barbers are both from Mindanao. Mindanao, the country's third biggest island and the source of most of our resources, should have major representation in the Senate. I happen to be from Mindanao.

* * *

Sonny Osmeña and Pong Biazon have proved themselves as excellent legislators. Sonny fights for the downtrodden like a true, blue-blooded Osmeña.

Although advanced in age, Johnny Enrile is a brilliant lawyer and former legislator. He's known for championing the rights of customers of the overbearing Manila Electric Co.

Orly Mercado will safeguard press freedom and the right to free speech in the Senate because he's a journalist like me.

Miriam Defensor-Santiago is an intellectual. She will provide comic relief in the otherwise drab proceedings in the Senate because of her antics.

Fred Lim will introduce laws that would make criminals uncomfortable living in our midst. Lim was a cop who used unorthodox methods in dealing with criminals.

Frank Chavez is a former solicitor general and a brilliant one at that. He fought hard to recover for the country the billions stolen by the Marcoses.

* * *

Mar Roxas and Pia Cayetano will represent the youth in the Senate.

Dick Gordon is a very hard-working public official who placed the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, which he once headed, in the world economic map. A kind-hearted soul, Dick Gordon is given to helping people in distress.

* * *

My prediction on who will win for mayor in Metro Manila?

Lito Atienza will win over Mel Lopez in the Manila mayoralty race. Pewee Trinidad is virtually running unopposed in Pasay City. Mel Mathay will get back the mayor's seat from Sonny Belmonte.

In Davao City, where I come from, the controversial but much-loved Mayor Rudy Duterte will win over Ben de Guzman. Duterte and De Guzman have contrasting characters. While Duterte is feared by hoods and other low-life in the city, De Guzman was considered a weakling of a leader when he was the city's chief executive.

METROBRIEFS

Guard slain

A SECURITY guard of the Chowking restaurant in Binondo, Manila, was killed after being attacked by two knife-yielding men while on duty early yesterday morning. The victim was identified as 30-year-old Roger Danao, a resident of Jasmin Street in Holy Spirit, Quezon City. His assailants, who remain unidentified, are still at large. Investigator SPO2 Virgo Villareal said Danao was standing guard outside the Chowking restaurant along C.M. Recto Street when the suspects attacked him at 2:00 a.m. *Leila Salaverria*

Malabon shooting

FOUR men fired shots at the campaign headquarters of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malabon City early morning yesterday. About 4:30 a.m. yesterday, caretaker Mike Villanueva and three campaign coordinators were sleeping inside the headquarters in corner Rizal Avenue and Pascual Street, Barangay San Agustin when they were awakened by the sound of four successive gunshots, police said. When Villanueva went out, a witness told him that four men on a taxi opened fire at the headquarters. One of the spent shells recovered from the scene was from a 9 mm pistol, investigator PO2 Bobby Egera said. The police remain clueless about the identities and the motive of the attackers. *Edson Tandoc Jr. and Rachel Anne Pagdagdagan*

Angping clarification

MANILA 3rd District Rep. Harry Angping, who recently withdrew his re-election bid, asked the Commission on Elections yesterday to tell the public the real score on the status of his disqualification case. "I only want the truth to prevail. If it was promulgated, why haven't we received an order from the Comelec?" said Angping. He said he was getting reports that the Comelec already came out with a decision on April 30 favoring a disqualification bid that cited he was not a Filipino citizen. As far as he is concerned though, his withdrawal was final, and his wife Maria Zenaida took over his candidacy through a substitution that was filed the same time he backed out. *Tarra Quismundo*

Wanted in Australia

A FILIPINO wanted in Australia for the 2002 murder of a Tongan gave himself up at the National Bureau of Investigation for voluntary extradition, saying he did so because he wants to prove his innocence. NBI-Interpol executive officer Atty. Jun de Castro identified the extraditee as 40-year-old Alejandro Almirol, of Cabanatuan City. Almirol surrendered to Interpol agent Emeterio Armada IV on Thursday morning after days of persuading him to turn himself in. Armada said Almirol was one of the suspects for the killing of his co-worker in New South Wales, Australia. *Leila Salaverria*

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Finger-pointing in the Lakers' huddle /A28

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
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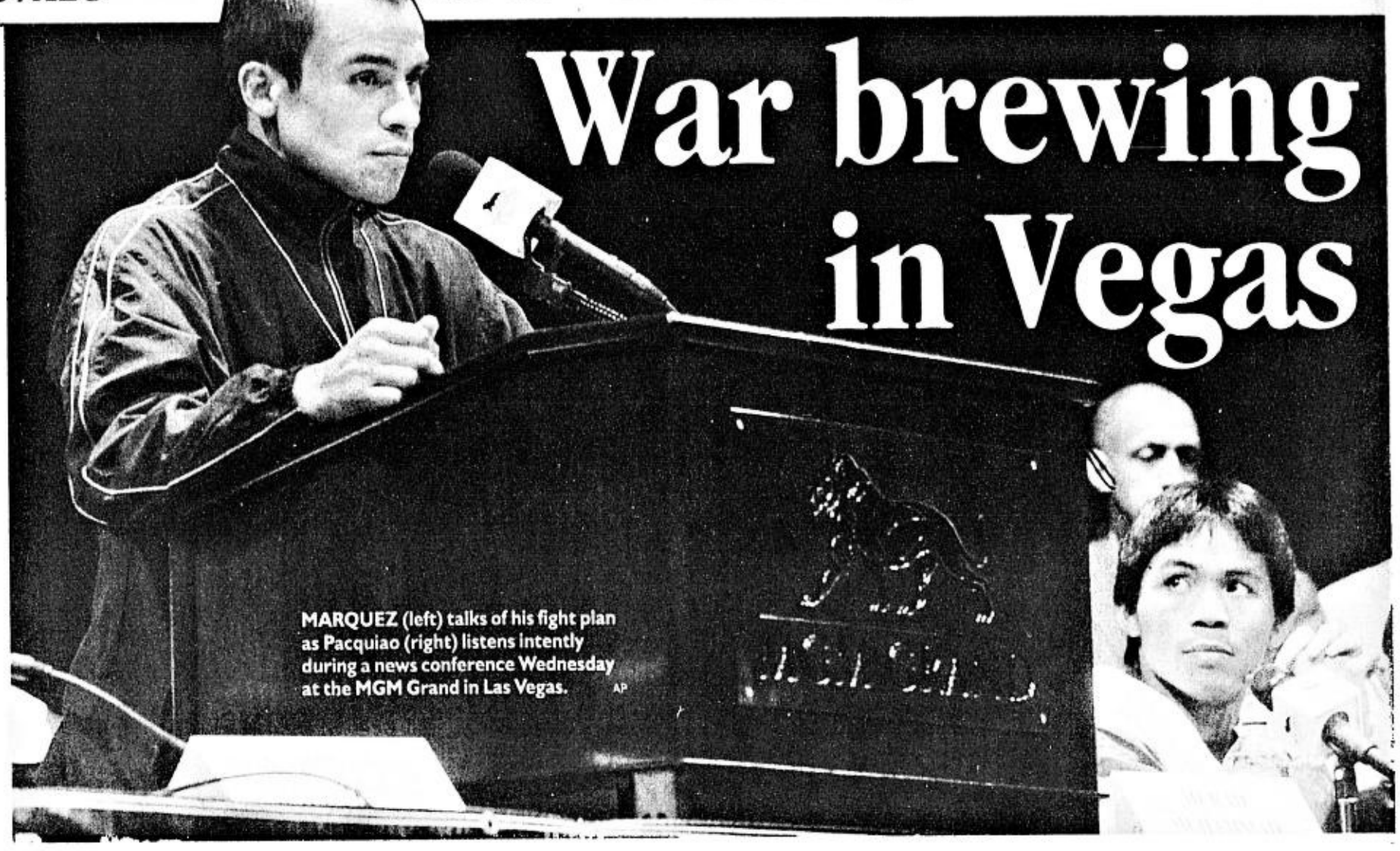
War brewing in Vegas



MARQUEZ (left) talks of his fight plan as Pacquiao (right) listens intently during a news conference Wednesday at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. AP

Pacquiao foe bares weapon; odds soar favoring Filipino

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—His opponents paid tribute to Manny Pacquiao during formal ceremonies on Thursday as the "most dangerous featherweight in the world today."

Moments later, the Filipino boxing celebrity was given a strong 50-percent edge (2/1) to stop WBA/IBF featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez on Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

With odds in this gambling capital swelling in his favor, Pacquiao, 25, announced he was now sharing his trainer's view that Marquez, five years his senior, will be a difficult and complicated opponent.

Pacquiao had earlier disagreed with trainer Freddie Roach and told the INQUIRER Marquez would be a lot easier to beat than Marco Antonio Barrera, the Mexican boxing icon whom he vanquished in Texas last year.

"I know Marquez is a great fighter, that's why I have worked very hard," Pacquiao admitted in flawless English during

WAR/ A29

It's a huge title fight

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—The standing score in the world boxing championship clashes between the Philippines and Mexico comprises a mismatch: 22-11 in favor of Mexico.

Luisito Espinosa, former WBC featherweight king, has five wins over Mexicans, the most by a Filipino boxer, followed by Manny Pacquiao with three.

Other Filipinos who had won over Mexican foes were the late junior welterweight Roberto Cruz, who stopped Battling Torres, Roland Pascua (over Humberto Gonzales) and the Hawaii-based Jesus Salud (over Juan Estrada).

Espinosa counts among his Mexican victims Cesar Soto, Manuel Medina (2 times), Alejandro "Cobrita" Gonzales, and Juan Carlos Ramirez.

Pacquiao has beaten Gabriel Mira (in defense of the WBC flyweight crown in 1999), Emmanuel Lucero and Marco Antonio Barrera.

But, based on the magnitude and impact of Saturday's championship here, a win by Pacquiao over Marquez could dramatically

IT'S / A29

MARQUEZ (left) and Pacquiao pose for lensmen. RENATO A. AVENIDO/US NEWS AGENCY

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E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Finger-pointing in the Lakers' huddle /A28

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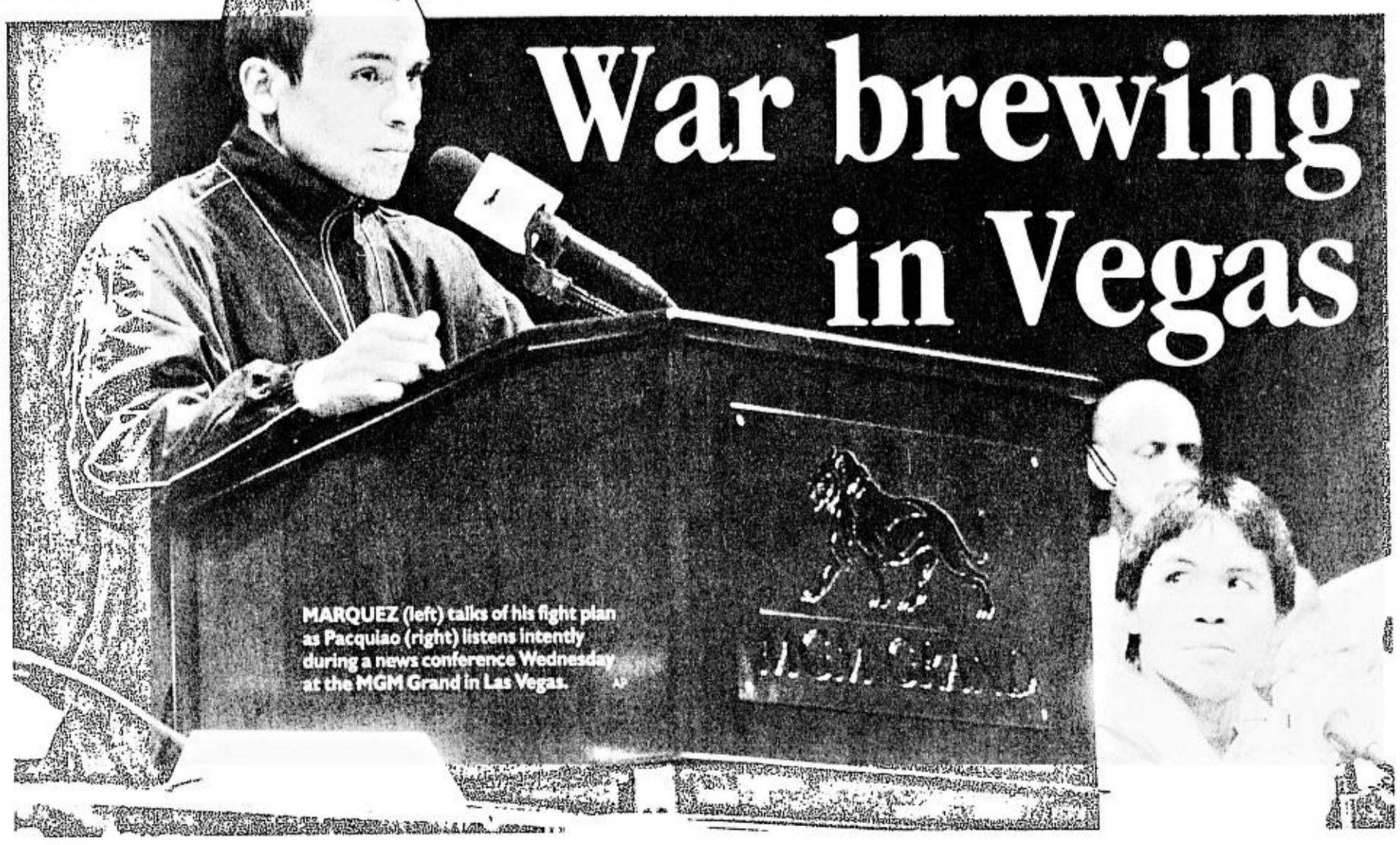

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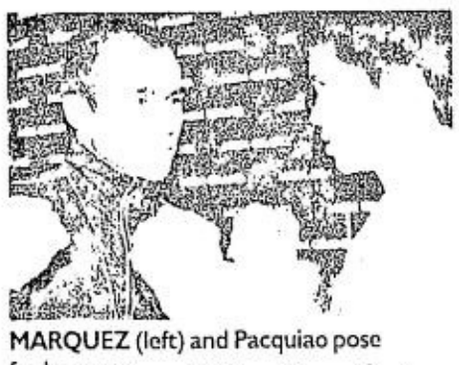
IT'S A2



MARQUEZ (left) and Pacquiao pose for lensmen. REUTERS

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Tigers seek vital win vs tough Barako today

COCA-COLA tries to cash in on Alaska's recent downfall when the Tigers tackle the Red Bull Barako today in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Philsports Arena.

Sta. Lucia Realty stunned Alaska, 95-93, in overtime Thursday, in the process giving the idle Tigers a second-running slate of 9-4 behind San Miguel Beer's 12-1, win-loss record. Alaska skidded to 9-5.

A win in the 4:10 p.m. contest would further boost the .Tigers' bid to finish second in the eliminations and clinch the second automatic quarterfinal slot behind SMB.

Purefoods hopes to sustain its rise from the grave when it battles Barangay Ginebra in the second game at 6:30 p.m.

The TJ Hotdogs snapped a six-game slide by trouncing the Shell Turbochargers Wednesday night.

A pro team from Argentina and the Lebanon national squad will join the top two teams after the 18-game eliminations in the quarterfinals, where teams will be bracketed into two groups.

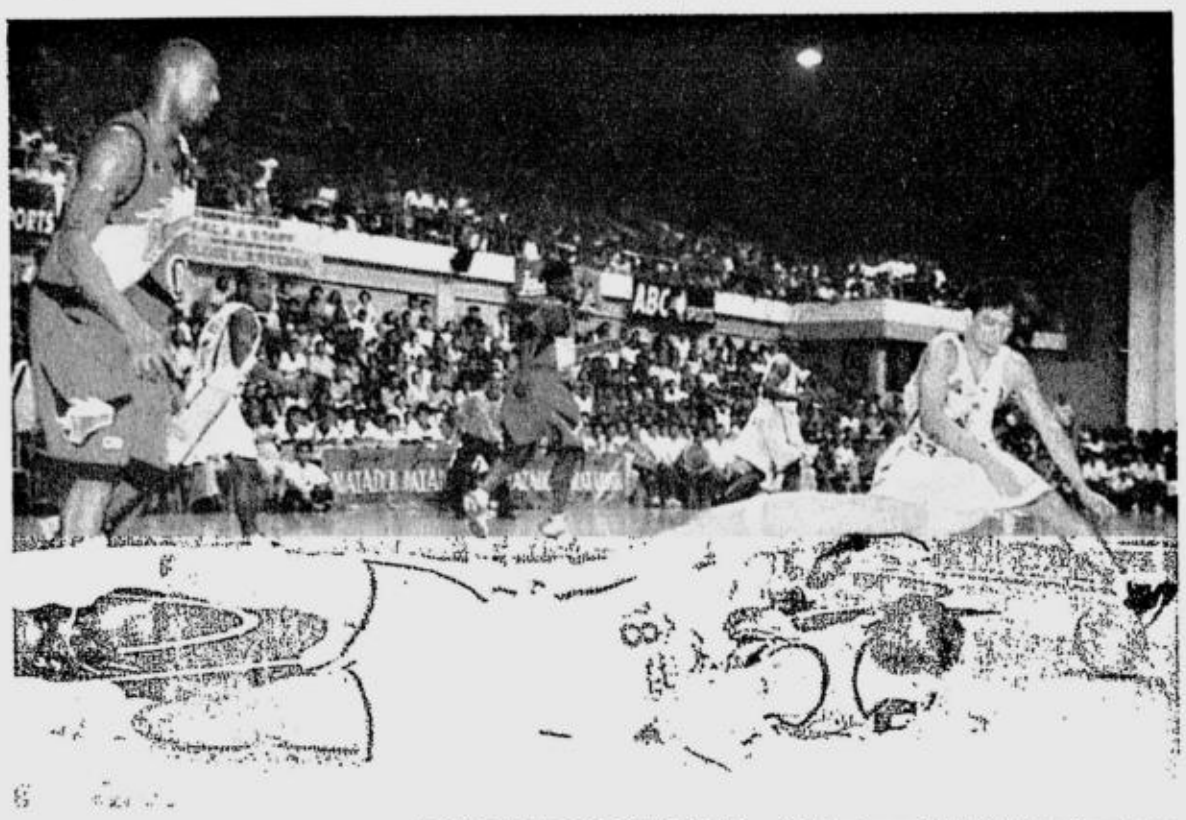
The top two teams from each group after a single round will collide in crossover pairings in the semifinals.

Sweeping the rest of their elimination outings, however, seems to be a tall order for coach Chot Reyes and the Tigers, who still have to meet FedEx, Alaska, Talk 'N Text and Shell.

With the top seeding in the quarters conceded to the Beermen, the battle for the No. 2 slot became a three-cornered fight among the Aces, Tigers and the Phone Pals with the Barakos having a slim chance.

The Barakos (6-7) have lost their last three games and are barely ahead of the Realtors (6-8) and the Gin Kings (5-8).

As for the Hotdogs, their current goal is avoid landing ninth or 10th entering the playoffs. The last two teams in the elims must beat the third- and fourth-ranked squads twice to advance into the quarters. *June Navarro*



DAVID AND GOLIATH: Hulking Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text pins down San Miguel's Joey Mente during a loose ball scramble in the game Thursday in Lucena City. The Phone Pals won, 89-87. RAMON VECINA

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	12	2
Coca-Cola	9	4
Alaska	9	5
Talk N Text	8	6
Red Bull	6	7
Sta. Lucia	6	8
Ginebra	5	8
Shell	5	9
FedEx	4	9
Purefoods	4	10

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports Arena)*
4:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Coca-Cola
6:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Ginebra

Again, that killer stage

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

JUST my habit. I can't let the cycling marathon pass without having my so-called two-cents' worth of comment about it rammed into your consciousness.

So OK now, quickly to Enrique Domingo, the old warrior from San Carlos City in Pangasinan.

He grabbed the overall lead with the Vigan to Baguio stage via Naguilian road. That was the 14th stage of the Air21 Tour ng Pilipinas of Bert Lina, my golf buddy that I seldom see because he's really as busy as a bee.

Domingo, 35, did not really win stage honors in Baguio—a mere repetition of history. He would always fade in the mountains after ruling mostly the speed races on flat land.

But this time, leaning on his time-tested ability to cling on to a breakaway group peopled by vaunted mountain climbers like 2003 champion Arnel Quirimit, he finished way ahead of his main rivals for the crown that did not—fortunately for Domingo—include Quirimit. Quirimit started the Tour sick and was never a factor the rest of the way.

Aided by luck, Domingo posted a 10-minute margin over the second-running Ryan Tanguilig at the end of stage 14. Tanguilig would later claim that he overlooked Domingo's ability to hang on in the steepest portions of Naguilian in the ascent to Baguio. The truth was, Domingo indeed merely hung on with his last ounce of courage, finishing way behind the lead pack that crossed the line in Burnham Park.

With the yellow jersey now on Domingo's back, Tanguilig's last chance to win was the 15th stage—the Baguio to Baguio run that would descend on Marcos Highway, climb back to Baguio via Naguilian, descend again on Marcos Highway and return to Baguio via the treacherous Kennon Road.

Many a time this killer stage would decide the eventual champion of the Tour.

There was drama on the eve of this make-or-break stage.

Carlo Guieb, the former back-to-back champion in 1993 and 1994, gave tips to Tanguilig on how to reclaim the yellow jersey. With help from 1969 champion Domingo Quilban, a Tour legend himself who also made a name as a mountain climber in his heyday, the three burned the midnight oil to devise a strategy that would dislodge Domingo. You see, all three hail from Nueva Vizcaya.

It paid off.

First thing Tanguilig was told was to exploit his daredevil prowess in the downward swing at Marcos Highway.

"They went back to history and studied Domingo's record," said Jess Garcia, another Tour legend, who was hoping Domingo would finally nail his first Tour crown. "They found out Domingo wasn't good at negotiating hairpin curves during descent."

Garcia was the first to notice the ploy. Immediately at the bark of the starting gun in Baguio for the 15th stage, Tanguilig sped away.

"I was the first to reach flat land that day," said Garcia. "When I saw Tanguilig's group hit flat land at Marcos Highway and there was no Domingo, I knew it was over for Domingo. Tanguilig's group came in in a furious speed and I knew immediately their strategy would produce wonders."

Tanguilig, who would later admit he had practiced mainly at Kennon Road, went on to win the stage, leaving Domingo behind by 23 minutes and 20 seconds. With his only stage win in the Tour, he would resurface as the overall leader with a margin of 13 minutes and 25 seconds over Domingo, who finished 28th for the day. Domingo would plummet down to seventh overall and, in all probability, would end his stab at Tour glory this year.

With the last two stages to be run on flat terrain, Tanguilig, 25, was the virtual champion of the 17-day Tour. His margin of 4 minutes and 51 seconds over Lloyd Reynante, finishing sixth in the 15th stage, would remain unchallenged till the grand finish in Manila on Sunday.

The question now is, will Tanguilig successfully defend his title next year?

Hard to tell.

Reynante, the son of the legendary and now US-based Mawi, could be ripe for coronation next year—his third run.

And then there's Baler Ravina, the 22-year-old greenhorn, who finished second just .02 of a tick behind Tanguilig in the killer 15th stage and went on to win Rookie of the Year honors.

"Give him two years," said Jess Garcia of Baler Ravina, FVR's townmate in Asingan, Pangasinan. "But if I'll start handling him now, who knows he might win it next year."

***

FASTBREAK. Federico R. Agcaoili, president of Baguio Country Club, has sent me this text message: "After reading your column on our LPGA champion and Philippine pride, Jennifer Rosales (06/05/04), I decided to nominate her as the centennial athlete of the Baguio Country Club as we celebrate our 100-year anniversary on Feb. 18, 2005. She will be entitled immediately to a lifetime grant of free green fees at our club once the ceremony for her induction is over." The newly elected NGAP director has many more perks coming up for Jenny, like free room accommodations, meals, etc. "because her achievement is the stuff that would have earned the enduring admiration of the late Nanoy Ilusorio if he were around." To Lourdes, Jenny's great mommy, please give Mr. Agcaoili a call. But first, ring me up for his number, please?

Korean jungolfer nips Bibat by one stroke

KOREAN jungolfer Kim Chang Hoi shrugged off the challenge of Mike Bibat and the other young guns of the host club yesterday to eke out a one-stroke victory in the championship division of the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour kickoff leg at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and County Club.

The 17-year old Kim, a student of the Holy Angel University in Angeles City, survived a last-ditch stand by Bibat with a two-over-par 74 for a 290 aggregate as he became the first qualifier in his division for the national grand finals early next year.

Bibat moved to within one from three strokes down after he birdied the 16th. After both parred the 17th, the smooth-swinging Bibat failed to forge a playoff when he bogeyed the last hole like the determined Korean.

Bibat's last day output of 72 could only give the first-round frontrunner second spot at 291.

The other top Southwoods bets—Lyndon Barril, second round leader Toru Nakajima, Gene Bondoc and Marc Lopez—took the next four spots.

The event is part of Samsung's all-out support for local golf. It is co-sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, Gatorade, Taylormade Adidas, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport, Rogin-E and Philippine Airlines.

Barril tallied a 74 for solo third at 292, Nakajima and Bondoc also had similar 74s to share fourth at 294 while Lopez shared low medal honors for the day with Bibat but landed only sixth at 297.

Canlubang bet Jay Bayron was seventh at 297 followed by Mari Hechanova eighth at 299, Aran Olea 78- 304, Miko Yee 81-312 and John Kier Abdon 80-313 in the 72-hole tourney organized by the Professional Sports Management Group headed by Boy Blue Ocampo.

The 11 players were the only survivors among the 22 starters on Tuesday.

The top three finishers received appliances from Samsung.

Canon

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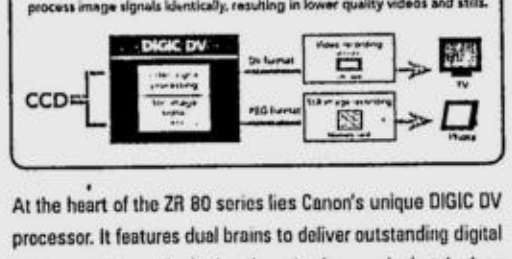
Since videos and photos have different colour requirements, DIGIC DV utilises two different colour techniques to maximise video quality for television and still image quality for print or computer display. Other manufacturers generally process image signals identically, resulting in lower quality videos and stills.



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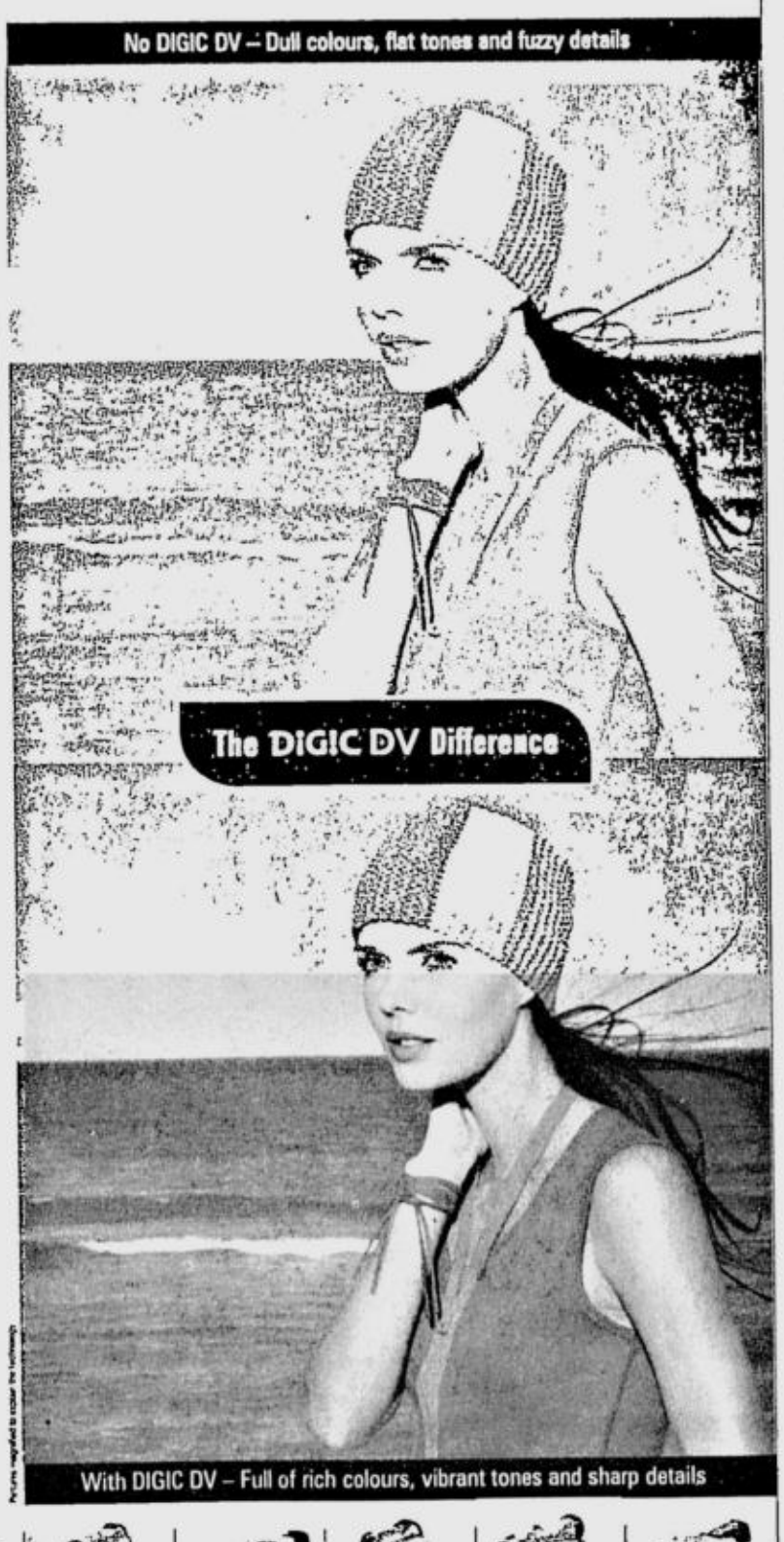

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Old baggages that drag the proud Lakers

CHICAGO—Playing in the shadow of Hollywood finally caught up with the Los Angeles Lakers. They're in danger of becoming just another movie-industry cliche, like "Gigli," a cautionary tale about what happens when the chemistry between superstars boils down to petulance.

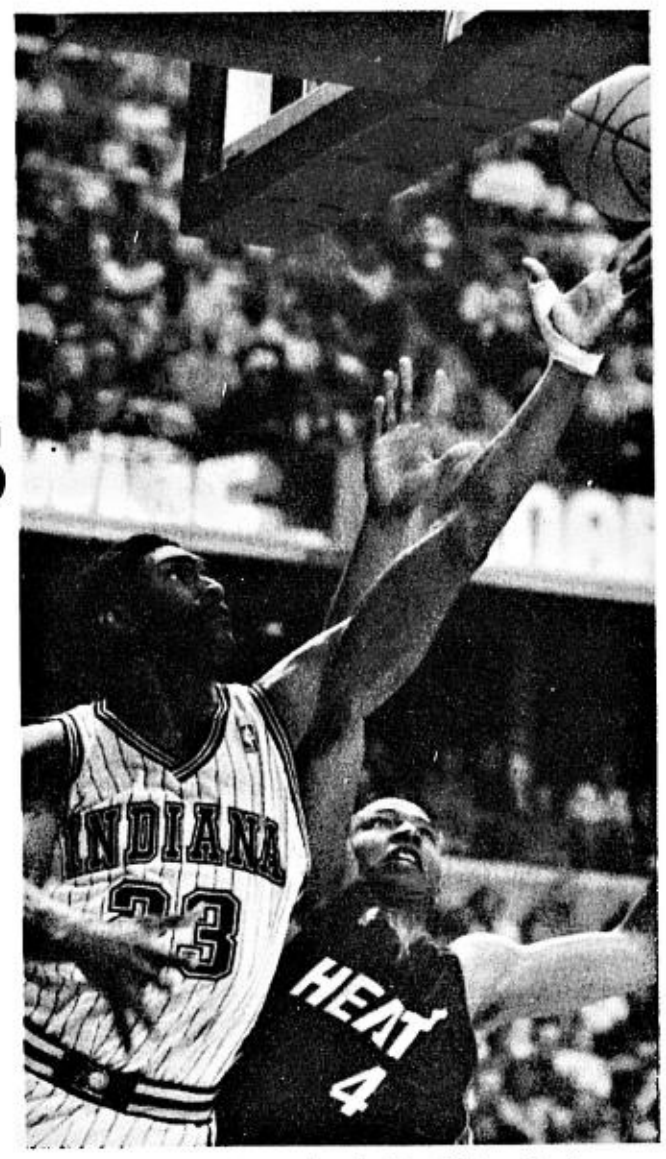
The Lakers? They're too much about stars and not enough about system. They've turned sharing the basketball into a liability and defending into a blame game. Down 2-0 to San Antonio as the best-of-seven NBA playoff series heads west, there's so much finger-pointing in the Lakers' huddle lately that it looks like an airport information desk.

The trouble this time isn't just Shaq and Kobe, although their feud hangs over the proceedings like a low-grade headache. It's more about Gary Payton being too old or too selfish to change, and Karl Malone being too old and too selfish, and coach Phil Jackson being too weary to conjure up one more happy ending.

The egos he used to massage with great skills no longer respond to the touch. One of his greatest strengths as a coach has been patience, but everything about the first two games in San Antonio suggests that he is running on fumes.

"We had some miscommunications tonight," Jackson said after Game 2, "and some of that was my fault."

No doubt. Jackson may have given up trying to reach Payton or Malone, and he's close to losing the rest of his squad. He spent most of one time-out early on Wednesday night staring at Bryant. Instead of rising to the challenge, Kobe turned passive early on and then tried to take over the game at the end by himself. *AP*



ARTEST puts up a shot against the Heat's Caron Butler during the third quarter of the game in Indianapolis. AP

Delasin, Rosales in strong starts

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia—South Korea star Kang Soo-yun shot a 6-under 65, riding a pinpoint 60-degree wedge to a series of short birdies and grabbing a one-shot lead in the Michelob Ultra Open on Thursday.

"After a few holes, I got a feeling," said Kang, who's won numerous times in Korea but didn't commit to the LPGA Tour until last season.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin, returning to action after taking last week off, was just a stroke behind along with Helen Alfredsson of Sweden.

Jenny Rosales of the Philippines, a breakthrough winner last week, scored her first eagle this season on the way to a 69, the same score posted by Annika Sorenstam.

Kang had four easy birdie putts after hitting her 60-degree wedge from in close. She also nearly holed a 7-iron on the par-3 fifth and made the 1-foot putt that remained.

Meanwhile in Charlotte, North Carolina, Kirk Triplett set a course record 8-under 64 to take a two-stroke lead in the Wachovia Championship.

Tiger Woods, back on the PGA Tour, shot a 69, a stroke behind Vijay Singh.

"It wasn't a great round. It wasn't a terrible round. It was just an OK round, just kind of hacked your way through 18 holes," she said. "When I first started off today I didn't really feel any adrenaline like when I go into tournaments and I am in that tournament mode."

Alfredsson was happy to be back on the upswing less than a year after she saw clear signs that it was time to walk away from golf for a while. *AP*

Asistio falters, settles for third in Jakarta

TONTON Asistio soared to a 78 in the final round yesterday and settled for third place in the boys' Class B at the Close of the 25th Asia-Pacific Junior golf championships at the Dami Indah Golf and Country Club in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Starting the day as the leader, Asistio collapsed with his worst effort in three rounds and yielded the title to Lownaphum Navisthrira of Thailand, who fired a 70, with Indonesia's Alexander Sitompul claiming second after a 72.

Jayvie Agojo and Geleen Handog had earlier placed 10th and 11th, respectively, in girls' Class A, Wolen Superal checked in third in boys' Class C while his sister Crystal also finished third in girls' Class B.

Meanwhile, in the Samsung Jungolf Tour, Dottie Ardina stretched his winning streak to five in the fifth leg at the Riviera executive course.

Ardina proved too classy for Korean Sun Mi Hwang with her 54-178, giving her a 29-shot victory in girls' Class D. The boys' Class D title went to JP de Claro, who beat Don Fernandez by 15.

JR Gonzales and Felicia Medalla claimed top honors in Class E while Janella Buen and Polo Reyes captured the top awards in Class F.

Pacers' Artest proves to be a headache for Heat

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Ron Artest overcame migraine headaches to score 25 points and Jamaal Tinsley was nearly perfect from the floor en route to 17 as the Indiana Pacers rolled to a 94-81 victory over the Miami Heat in Game One of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Artest missed the shootaround and was considered questionable for Thursday's series opener. But he was inserted in the starting lineup and helped lead the Pacers to a decisive win.

The NBA Defensive Player of the Year made 7-of-17 shots, 10-of-13 free throws, grabbed six rebounds and handed out four assists.

"Ron was a monster," Heat coach Stan Van Gundy said. "He has such a great knack for the game. He makes difficult shots—a great player."

Artest sank four free throws and Reggie Miller put away the game with a 3-pointer that gave the Pacers an 87-76 cushion with 3:09 remaining.

Indiana got a huge lift from Tinsley, who made 6-of-7 shots, including 5-of-6 from 3-point range. He scored just 33 points on 13-of-30 shooting in a first-round sweep of Boston. *AFP*

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TAIPEI CRASH

Django 'misfires'

BUSTAMANTE

By Roy Luarca

TAIPEI—Bad luck continued to hound Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour here Friday as he became the first casualty among six Filipinos entered in the series' fourth leg here.

Bustamante, the world's top-ranked player who is struggling in the $250,000 Tour, bowed to unheralded Singaporean Tan Tiong Boon, 9-7, even as Efren "Bata" Reyes, Lee Vann Corteza, Leonardo Andam, Warren Kiamco and Antonio Gabica barged into the second round.

"Malas. Ayaw talagang bigyan," said Bustamante, who has yet to make the semifinals of the five-leg country-hopping Tour.

Down, 7-3, Bustamante rallied to within 7-6, but Tan countered for an 8-6 count.

Bustamante won the next rack, 8-7, but scratched on the break and allowed the Singaporean to pull off the reversal.

The 50-year-old Reyes downed Fil-Indon Alwi, 9-5; Corteza beat Indian Alok Kumar, 9-6; Kiamco trounced Singaporean William Ang, 9-6; Andam nipped Vietnamese Nguyen Thanh Nam, 9-8; and Gabica dumped Malaysian Patrick Ooi Fook Yuen, 9-3.

Hobbled by bad breaks, Reyes trailed Alwi, formerly Anastacio Uriarte of Surigao del Sur, 5-2.

Flashing his vintage form, Reyes swept the next seven racks to stay within sight of his third title in the 2004 Tour. Reyes had earlier ruled the Singapore and Ho Chi Minh legs before settling for fourth place in the Hong Kong stop of the San Miguel Beer-sponsored event.

Reyes will meet Corteza, while Andam will battle Kiamco in Round 2.

The 31-year-old Gabica, a native of Lapu Lapu City, will tangle with Japan's Satoshi Kawabata.

Another touted player, two-time world champion Chao Fong-pang of Chinese-Taipei also got the upset axe, yielding to Vietnamese Vu Trong Khai, 9-8.

Welcoat battles Lee Pipes today

WELCOAT Paints tries to bolster its claim to the second semifinal slot when it tangles with tailender Lee Pipes-Ateneo today in the PBL 2nd Unity Cup at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The Paint Masters, running second behind Viva Mineral Water with their 6-2 slate, are favored over the Eagles (2-6) in their 4 p.m. date.

Welcoat and league-leader Viva-FEU will skip the quarterfinals and go straight to the semis.

Toyota Otis-Letran and Montaña Pawnshop collide in the 2 p.m. opening game

STANDINGS	W	L
Viva-FEU	7	1
Welcoat	6	2
Sunkist-UST	4	4
Hapee	4	4
Toyota Otis	3	5
Montaña	3	5
Blu Star	3	5
Lee Pipes	2	6

Veteran coach Robert Sison will call the shots for Montaña, replacing Ronnie Dojillo, who took over after Bong Go retired due to health reasons.

Dojillo actually had a good debut when he led the Jewels to a 76-75 victory over titlists Hapee Toothpaste last Tuesday. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

VAN HELSING

Big Opening in Manila

10M first day gross

It's official. The summertime is officially upon us, at least as far as the movie biz is concerned. and what better way to kick it off than the Usd 200m mega budgeted VAN HELSING ,an action packed monster movie from the director of two previous summer kick-off movies, the appropriately named Stephen Sommers? In 1999, Sommers' modernization of the Universal monster movie The Mummy took the box office by storm, grossing over $150 million and putting him on the map as a key player. Two years later, his sequel, The Mummy Returns, became the top non-holiday opening movies (at the time) and grossing over $200 million during its theatrical run. Van Helsing is Sommers' first movie in three years, and fans of big budget special effects movies cannot wait to see what he pulls out of his sleeves this time

May has become the biggest month for blockbuster releases, three of last year's biggest opening hit theatres during that month.

Insiders are predicting a Usd 60m opening weekend in the US: Because of the time differences, pilipinos will be the first to see this super production in the Philippines.

The first day opening gross of 10m in Manila was even higher than this year's #1 hit THE RETURN OF THE KING.

ADVT.

See'mall!

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ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)	GB3 (Greenbelt 3)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
1 VAN HELSING	1 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	1 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN; 5 VAN HELSING	1 VAN HELSING 2 25, 5 10, 7 55, 10 40	1 VAN HELSING
2 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	2 VAN HELSING	2 STARSKY & HUTCH; 6 VAN HELSING	2 VAN HELSING 3 05, 5 50, 8 35, 11 20	2 HELLBOY
3 STARSKY & HUTCH	3 VAN HELSING	3 VAN HELSING 1 10, 3 50, 6 50, 9 40, 11 30; 7 MAN ON FIRE	3 VAN HELSING 1 00, 3 45, 6 30, 9 15, 12 00	3 SCHOOL OF ROCK
4 SCHOOL OF ROCK	4 I WILL SURVIVE	4 SCHOOL OF ROCK	4 STARSKY & HUTCH 1 50, 4 00, 6 10, 8 20, 10 30	4 I WILL SURVIVE
5 VAN HELSING		GB1 (Greenbelt 1): 1 I WILL SURVIVE 11:50, 2 00, 4:10, 6 20, 8 30; 2 VAN HELSING 11:00, 1.45, 4 30, 7.15, 10 00	5 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE... 1 10, 3 10, 5 10	5 PAYCHECK

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THEY'RE OFF!
Entries in the Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Race answer the starting gun during the first leg of the 2004 series held in Boracay recently. Team Iligan Pride topped the Elite category, with Team Laro-Laro beating all comers in the Fun category. The second leg of the series is slated in August in Manila.

All set for 3rd MY Games

THE FINEST and promising 15-under athletes from the Big City will again gather at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex for spirited competitions in the 3rd Manila Youth Games (MY Games) slated May 23-30.

Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chief of the organizing Manila Sports Council (Masco), said yesterday everything is in readiness for the games where 8,000 children-athletes are expected to vie in 14 sports.

He said a colorful opening ceremony, highlighted by a cheering competition among the city's college and university squads, will usher in the weeklong multi-event competition which has "Manila Sports, Kasali Ka!" as its theme.

"We envision the 3rd MY Games to kick off another chapter in Manila's sports history," said Atienza, son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. "We aim to stir the consciousness of the elders of the City of Manila to involve their children in sports and physical fitness."

Practically all 897 barangays and 130 schools in the country's premier city will be represented in the games. The events on tap include athletics, badminton, baseball, chess, dancesports, football, gymnastics, softball, swimming, table tennis, lawn tennis, taekwondo, volleyball and paralympics.

"Through the MY Games, we hope to contribute to the national sports development agenda while providing Manila's youth a wholesome endeavor that will help mold them as assets of society," said Mayor Atienza.

The 3rd MY Games is a vital part of the city's Buhayin ang Maynila program. Manila's domination of the 2001 Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy in Bacolod City had also inspired city hall to start its own sports development program for children-athletes.

Pacquiao urged to prove 'Filipinos at par with world's best'

A VICTORY by Manny Pacquiao in his biggest fight to date Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila) in Las Vegas will emphasize the fact that "Filipinos, whatever their skills, are at par with the world's best."

KNP senatorial candidate Jamby Madrigal said this yesterday as she urged Pacquiao to do his best and win the title fight against Mexican IBF/WBA champion Juan Manuel Marquez.

"My prayers go with Manny and I wish him the best. This is another rare opportunity for a Filipino athlete to shine in the international arena," said Madrigal, who espouses youth and sports development in her vision of governance.

A native of Gen. Santos City, Pacquiao, in consultation with sports adviser Nestor Camacho, will start a livelihood and skills training program for street children in Region 12 when he returns home.

War brewing . . .

From page A25

the press conference for the world championship dubbed "Hearts and Fists on Fire."

He also thanked his supporters, his countrymen and HBO for "bringing the championship and Manny Pacquiao to the world."

In his turn to talk, Marquez whimpered and said he would rather let his "fists do the talking on Saturday."

Trash talking, a routine event in big world boxing championships, did not take place as the main contending parties displayed mutual respect for each other.

"Pacquiao presents a lot of difficulties for us," announced Nacho Beristain, Marquez's trainer who has made a total of 15 world boxing champions. "He's strong, a very special southpaw, the most dangerous featherweight in the world."

Beristain also bared what they planned to do against Pacquiao.

Claiming his fighter to be more fundamentally sound, Beristain said Marquez would "break Pacquiao's guard" and prevail.

Pacquiao, for his part, said they've perfected a plot to beat Marquez, but he again refused to divulge details.

"Just like in the fight against Barrera, our plan against Marquez is a secret," Pacquiao told a swarm of foreign journalists, many of whom later asked to be photographed with him.

In attendance during the presscon at the south wing of the MGM Grand Arena were Bob Arum and Murad Muhammad, friends since their days with Muhammad Ali, who have conspired to put up the Saturday championship, which they claimed has the makings of a fight of the year.

Promoters formally announced the names of the judges, Burt Clemens (Nevada), Guy Jutras (Canada), and John Stewart (New Jersey), who has replaced Clark Samartino.

The referee will be Joe Cortez, who was the third man when Pacquiao stopped unbeaten Lehlo Ledwaba of South Africa to annex the IBF super bantamweight crown in 2001 at the Grand Arena here, site of Saturday's championship.

The sports book display here indicated that a $170 bet for Pacquiao would pay $100, while $100 for Marquez will net $150.

Marquez has been given only a 25 per cent (4/1) chance of stopping Pacquiao.

Pacquiao, who tipped the scales at 125 lbs., one under the featherweight limit, after his final workout Wednesday, limbered up Thursday morning, skipped dinner, and was expected to breeze through the scales in the weigh-in on Friday.

Interest in the championship has surpassed expectations and promoters said they look forward to a sell-out at the capacity-10,000 Grand Arena.

It's a huge . . .

From page A25

obliterate the one-sided score.

Win or lose, Pacquiao is scheduled to be honored in a "Manny Pacquiao Day" to be tendered by the Filipino-American community in Southern Nevada on Sunday.

Tonie Sison and City Council liaison Lito Rayos said they have invited the city mayor of Las Vegas, Oscar Goodman, to present the key to the city to Pacquiao in ceremonies at the Rain Forest Restaurant of the MGM Grand.

Meanwhile, the championship fight on Saturday was so hot and huge it knocked out the website (mannypacquiao.ph) dedicated to Manny Pacquiao here.

By 9 p.m. Thursday, nobody could access the website due to overwhelming demands.

"Due to tremendous visitors, this server comes to a crawl," the computer monitor announced.

The website, created by Dong Secuya of Cebu, was out of commission for several hours.

No $1 million for Pacquiao

Las Vegas, Nevada—Contrary to popular belief, Manny Pacquiao is not yet a million-dollar champion.

Pacquiao is not getting the $1 million purse earlier announced for his all-important outing against Juan Manuel Marquez, after all.

This was learned from promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank who divulged that the said $1 million purse was actually a combined payment for the two main-event boxers, Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez.

Arum told the Las Vegas Sun that Pacquiao and Marquez would receive an even $500,000 each for the Saturday main event.

It was earlier advertised in Manila that his handlers had been negotiating for a $1 million purse for Pacquiao.

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9	I WILL SURVIVE
10	STARSKY & HUTCH
11	SCHOOL OF ROCK
12	VAN HELSING

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	HELLBOY
2	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
3	PAYCHECK
4	VAN HELSING
5	STARSKY & HUTCH
6	VAN HELSING
7	SCHOOL OF ROCK
8	HAUNTED SPIRIT
9	I WILL SURVIVE
10	BOOBITA ROSE
11	MAN ON FIRE
12	VAN HELSING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9285452

1	VAN HELSING
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	HELLBOY
5	MAN ON FIRE
6	STARSKY & HUTCH
7	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
8	VAN HELSING

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416

1	VAN HELSING
2	MAN ON FIRE
3	VAN HELSING
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	VAN HELSING
6	SCHOOL OF ROCK
7	HELLBOY
8	STARSKY & HUTCH
9	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
10	I WILL SURVIVE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	HELLBOY
2	VAN HELSING
3	VAN HELSING
4	I WILL SURVIVE

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17

1	HELLBOY
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	MAN ON FIRE
4	PAYCHECK

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	VAN HELSING
2	VAN HELSING
3	PETER PAN
4	SCHOOL OF ROCK
5	MAN ON FIRE
6	I WILL SURVIVE

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505

1	STARSKY & HUTCH
2	THE CURSE
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	MAN ON FIRE

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8066888

1	HELLBOY
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3	VAN HELSING
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	MAN ON FIRE
6	BOOBITA ROSE
7	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
8	VAN HELSING
9	STARSKY & HUTCH
10	HAUNTED SPIRIT

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055

1	VAN HELSING
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
4	VAN HELSING

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975

1	MAN ON FIRE
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	VAN HELSING
4	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868

1	MAN ON FIRE
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3	VAN HELSING
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	VAN HELSING
6	I WILL SURVIVE
7	HAUNTED SPIRIT
8	HELLBOY

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80

1	PETER PAN
2	TAKING LIVES
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	I WILL SURVIVE

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876

1	WILLIE NEPUMOCENO SPOOF SHOW
2	VAN HELSING
3	PETER PAN
4	VAN HELSING
5	PAYCHECK
6	SCHOOL OF ROCK
7	I WILL SURVIVE
8	HELLBOY

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422

1	UNINVITED
2	RESERVED
3	PAYCHECK
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	PETER PAN
6	HELLBOY
7	RESERVED
8	TAKING LIVES

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998

1	VAN HELSING
2	PETER PAN
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	PAYCHECK
5	VAN HELSING
6	HELLBOY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884

1	TAKING LIVES
2	PETER PAN
3	THE CURSE
4	HELL BOY

—THE— PODIUM

1
VAN HELSING
11:30 FS/ 12:00 MF/2:45/5:30/ 8:15/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:15 END

2
STARSKY & HUTCH
10:10FS/11:35 MF/ 12:50/ 3:05/ 5:20/ 7:35/ 9:20 LFS/ 9:50 LMF/ 11:35 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SM CINEMA

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5 days to go!

guaranteed seats available at: Megamall | Manila | Sta. Mesa | Fairview | Southmall Bacoor | Cagayan de Oro | Lucena | Baguio | Marilao

PHOTO EXHIBIT

Don't miss the chance to see the scenes from the movie TROY in a photo exhibit to be held at the SM Megamall Cinema lobby starting May 2.

regular showing | may 13 2004 at the SM Cinemas

Subject to MTRCB Rating

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the cool jocks of 91.5 ENERGY FM

at

Robinsons Movieworld Starmills

from ***May 5 to May 15***

LIVE Remote Broadcast Schedules

ROBINSONS NOVALICHES
April 14 - April 24

ROBINSONS STARMILLS PAMPANGA
May 5 - May 15

MALABON CITISQUARE
May 26 - June 5

ROBINSONS STA. ROSA
June 16 - June 26

ROBINSONS LIPA
July 7 - July 17

ROBINSONS DASMARIÑAS
July 28 - August 7

ROBINSONS IMUS
August 18 - August 28

ROBINSONS GALLERIA
Sept. 8 - Sept. 18

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	VAN HELSING
2 (SDDS)	HELLBOY
3 (DTS)	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
4 GOLD (DTS)	MAN OF FIRE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	WHOLE TEN YARDS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	STARSKY & HUTCH
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
8	I WILL SURVIVE
9	SCHOOL OF ROCK
10	BIG FISH

EASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
2 (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
3 (DOLBY)	STARSKY & HUTCH
4 (DOLBY)	I WILL SURVIVE

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	VAN HELSING
3	ANIMAL

Starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	I WILL SURVIVE / WHOLE 10 YARD
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	VAN HELSING
5	

METROPOLIS Star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	CHECK - INN
2	ANIMAL
3	HELLBOY
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	VAN HELSING
6	HAUNTED SPIRIT

M Star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	VAN HELSING
2	I WILL SURVIVE

PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) tel 892.2503 THX

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	EVIL - 4
2	MY GOOD LAWYERS WIFE
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

5	RESERVE
6	
7 (DTS)	
8 (SDDS)	
9 (DOLBY)	

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ANIMAL
2	HELLBOY
3	MAN OF FIRE
4 (SDDS)	STARSKY & HUTCH
5	I WILL SURVIVE
6 (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
7 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1	RESERVE
2 (SDDS)	
3 (DTS)	
4 (DOLBY)	
5	

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	MAN ON FIRE
2	ITLOG
3 (DTS)	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
4	ANIMAL
5	VAN HELSING

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	CARMEN
Lords	MEN'S

Marketplace Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	VAN HELSING
3	VENUS
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
2	WHOLE 10 YARD
3	RESERVE
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	ANIMAL

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	KILL BILL
2	ANIMAL

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center

Ali MALL CINEPLEX 7 Tel No. 911-3101 Loc. 821-8343-8486

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I WILL SURVIVE
4 (SDDS)	VAN HELSING
5 (DTS)	JERSEY GIRL
6	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
7	HELLBOY

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	MAN OF FIRE
2	BONE SNATCHERS
3 (DTS EX)	I WILL SURVIVE
4	CARMEN

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	HOUSE DEAD
3 (DOLBY)	MAN OF FIRE
4	BONE SNATCHERS

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	PETER PAN
2	TAKING LIVES
3 (DOLBY)	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 (DTS)	HELLBOY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2 (DTS)	HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY)	SCHOOL OF ROCK
4	WHOLE 10 YARD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
3 (DTS)	SCHOOL OF ROCK
4	WHOLE 10 YARD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) t (045) 9821727

1	PETER PAN
2	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 (DOLBY)	TAKING LIVES

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	PETER PAN
2	PAY CHECK
3 (DOLBY)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 (DTS)	TAKING LIVES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1	STARSKY & HUTCH
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	MAN OF FIRE

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	TWISTED
2	CHECK - INN
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4 (DTS)	DALAWANG PISNGI

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
2	BONE SNATCHERS
3 (DTS)	I WILL SURVIVE
4	SCHOOL OF ROCK
5	WHOLE 10 YARD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Binan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	NAGDADALAGA

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558

1	WHOLE 10 YARD
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	ANIMAL
2	TAKING LIVES
3 (DTS)	PASSION OF CHRIST
4 (DOLBY)	PAY CHECK

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HELLBOY
2	WHOLE 10 YARD
3	MAN OF FIRE
4	STARSKY & HUTCH

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	CHECK - INN
2	TAKING LIVES

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

Spring nips Iloilo quint

ILOILO CITY—Spring Cooking Oil-Laguna uncorked a late surge to nip Iloilo, 85-83, Thursday at the start of the Panasonic-Iloilo NBC pre-season games at the University of San Agustin gym here.

Mar Reyes scored on a fastbreak with 17 ticks left after Francis Sanz had tied the count with a triple to give the team of shooting champ Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and San Pablo Mayor Florante Aquino its first win in the four-team series.

In the other game, Cebu Basketball Federation powerhouse Cebu-GMC routed the Baguio Cardinals, 114-86.

The scores:

First Game

CEBU 113—Grijaldo 23, Concha 18, Cainglet 16, Lanete 15, Saladaga 11, Lozano 10, Gabas 6, Mangubat 5, Arellano 4, Urcal 4, Calinawan 2, Mamba 0.

BAGUIO 86—Mapaneo 14, Bona 11, Ton 10, Collado 10, Fontanilla 8, Mondina 8, Oduay 6, Ancheta 4, Marquez 4, Rotoni 4, Balares 4, Carino 4.

Second Game

SPRING-LAGUNA 85—Epondulan 22, Sanz 19, MEndoza 9, Reyes 6, Corbin 5, Caceres 5, Manuel 4, Serrano 4, Buendia 2, Kalaw 2, Garcia 2.

ILOILO 83—Sayson 27, Quonco 16, Cinco 10, Allado 7, Sina-on 5, Gamboa 4, Poral 4, Pido 4, Claguer 2, Marucot 2, Unare 2.

JVC clinic goes to SM Cebu

JVC will hold a couple of two-day badminton clinics and exhibition matches at the SM malls in the south starting today in its continuing effort to help develop and promote one of the most popular sports in the land today.

SM Cebu will host this weekend's stop while SM Iloilo will take its turn May 15-16 with some of the country's top coaches and players expected to conduct the workshop and share their expertise before an expected big number of crowd and enthusiasts.

The event serves as part of the JVC Open under-14 Badminton Championships which will stage its quarterfinal round on May 22-23 at the SM Southmall in Las Piñas.

Dayrit . . .

From page A32

representing the country since 2000, will fight in the 75-kg (middleweight) category, while Payla, champion in several tournaments held in Greece, Azerbaijan and Cuba, takes a crack at the 51-kg (fly) gold. Romeo Brin will compete in the 64-kg class.

The country's trap shooting bet will be Dionisio, the three-time world speed shooting champion in 1990, 1992 and 1993. He gained an ISSF wild card entry last week and will plunge into training in Australia starting this month.

Taekwondo will be represented by Donnie Geisler (68 kg-80 kg), Tshomlee Go (under 58 kg) and Mary Antoinette Rivero (57-67 kg). They are currently in training in Korea.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Ali 3	I WILL SURVIVE
Ali 4	VAN HELSING
Ali 5	JERSEY GIRL
Ali 6	CONFESSION... DRAMA QUEEN
Ali 7	HELLBOY

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL

Open Daily 4 PM to 10 PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

MAY 9	PBA FEDEX VS. SHELL
MAY 12	PBA : STA. LUCIA VS. GINEBRA
MAY 14	REWIND PLUS DOBLE REVO DOBLE PREMYO
MAY 16	PBA : PUREFOODS VS. TALK 'N' TEXT
MAY 19	PBA : FEDEX VS. STA. LUCIA
MAY 23	PBA : SAN MIGUEL VS. FEDEX
MAY 26	PBA : STA LUCIA VS. SHELL
MAY 29	THE SEARCHERS
MAY 30	PBA RED BULL VS SAN MIGUEL

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	U-BELT / VENUS
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	LINGGU LANG ANG PANINGIN
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SCHOOL OF ROCK
CINEMA-2	ANIMAL
CINEMA-3	WHOLE 10 YARDS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DUDA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MAN ON FIRE
CINEMA-6	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-7	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-8	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	CONFESSIONS OF DRAMA QUEEN
CINEMA-12	STARSKY & HUTCH
CINEMA-14	HELLBOY
CINEMA-15	I WILL SURVIVE

LORES

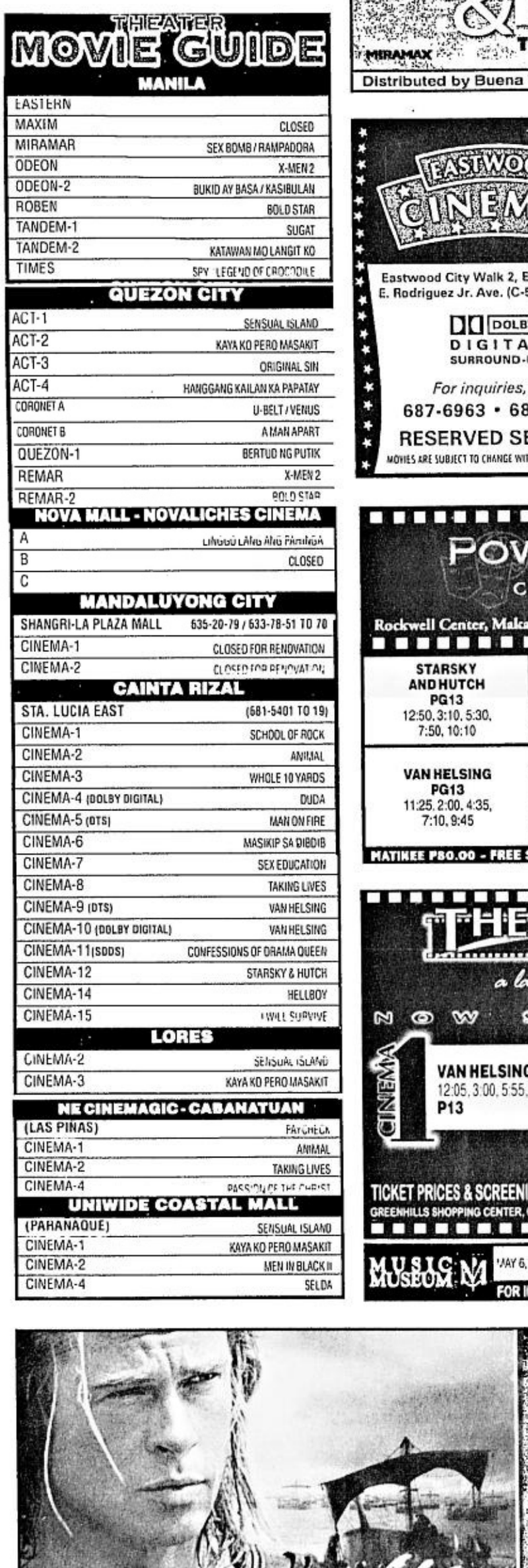
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

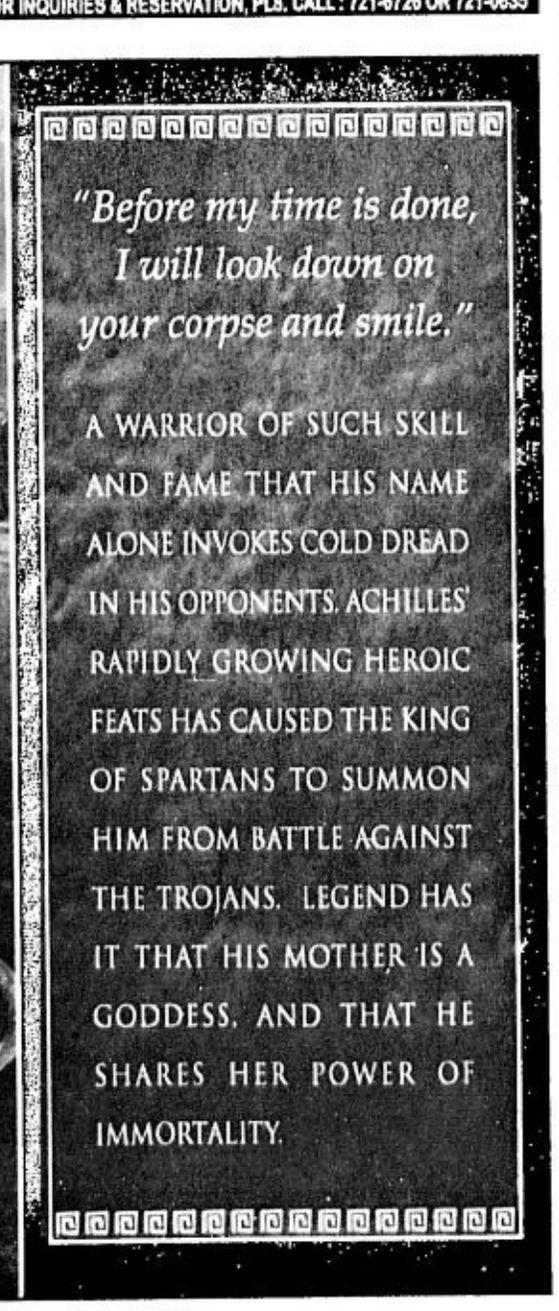
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

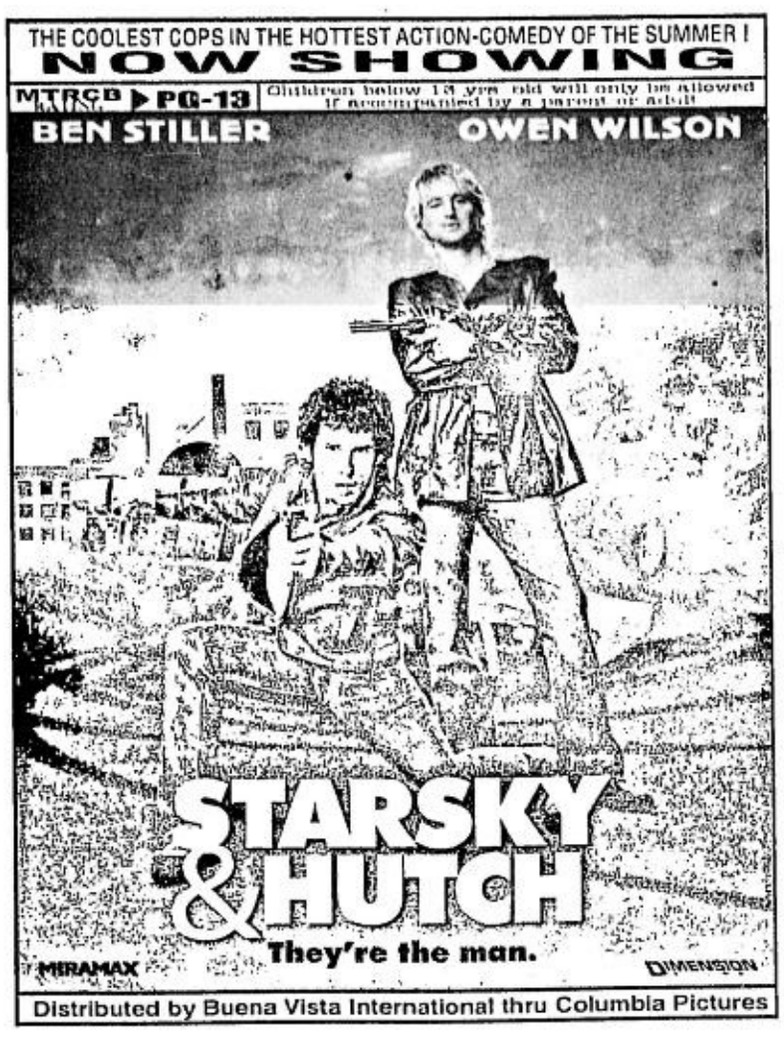
(LAS PINAS)	PAYCHECK
CINEMA-1	ANIMAL
CINEMA-2	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA







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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972

RESERVED SEATING

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1. THE CONFESSIONS OF TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN
11:35, 1:50, 4:05, 6:20
8:35, 10:50
GP

2. VAN HELSING
12:45, 3:55, 7:05, 10:15
PG-13

3. STARSKY & HUTCH
11:40, 1:50, 4:00
6:10, 8:20, 10:30
PG-13

4. I WILL SURVIVE
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City — Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

STARSKY AND HUTCH PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	VAN HELSING PG13 1:15, 3:50, 6:25, 9:00
VAN HELSING PG13 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45	MAN ON FIRE R18 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00	VAN HELSING PG13 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
VAN HELSING
12:05, 3:00, 5:55, 8:50
P13

CINEMA 2
STARSKY & HUTCH
12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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MUSIC MUSEUM — MAY 6, 7, & 8 — "IL DIVINO" — 8:00 PM
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MOVIEWORLD

TOP MOVIE THEATER

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Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA

632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593

CINEMA 1 THX

VAN HELSING
10:55, 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30

2nd I WILL SURVIVE 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	3 HELLBOY 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45	4 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 10:25, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
5 VAN HELSING 10:20, 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00	6 STARSKY AND HUTCH 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	7 PAYCHECK 11:35, 1:50, 4:05, 6:20, 8:35, 10:30
8 SCHOOL OF ROCK 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30, 10:30	9 THE WHOLE TEN YARDS 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	10 MAN ON FIRE 10:15, 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA

526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1 VAN HELSING 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

2nd HELLBOY 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	3 SCHOOL OF ROCK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40	4th STARSKY AND HUTCH 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
5th CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 11:15, 1:05, 2:55, 4:45, 6:35, 8:25, 10:00	6 MAN ON FIRE 10:40, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40	7 I WILL SURVIVE 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

METRO EAST

Big R Supercenter
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1st CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	2 VAN HELSING 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 11:30
3 VAN HELSING 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 11:30	4 MAN ON FIRE 10:35, 1:40, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00
5 HELLBOY 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 8:25, 9:00	6 STARSKY AND HUTCH 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
7 SCHOOL OF ROCK 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	8 I WILL SURVIVE 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:30

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW

Big R Supercenter
935-3229 / 31

1st VAN HELSING 12:15, 3:05, 5:55, 8:45, 11:15	2 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:10
3 MAN ON FIRE 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:10	4 STARSKY AND HUTCH 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30
5 SCHOOL OF ROCK 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:10	6 HELLBOY 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30
7 I WILL SURVIVE 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30	8 HAUNTED SPIRIT 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:10

Citisquare MALABON

288-0985/2575

1	TWISTED
2	VAN HELSING
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	THE UNINVITED

big Supercenter CAINTA

240-4661

1	VAN HELSING
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	SORUM
4	MAN ON FIRE

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4	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
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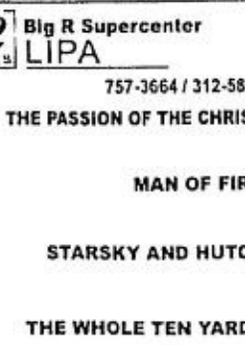

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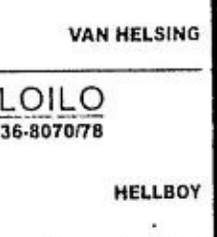

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SPORTS

Dayrit unfazed by bombings

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee is not worried over the recent bombings that rocked Athens, site of the Olympic Games this August, where the country is fielding a lean, select contingent in another bid to win its first gold medal.

POC president Celso Dayrit yesterday said he is confident that Athens can handle its security concerns in coordination with European, United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization authorities.

Greece is reportedly spending $1.2 billion for security alone, the biggest ever allotted in the history of the Games. By comparison, the entire budget of the Philippines for hosting the 2005 Southeast Asian Games is P500 million.

Chief of mission Steve Hontiveros said the Athens organizers have assured the participating countries that the three dynamite explosions were "isolated cases and do not affect the Olympic preparations."

The assurance was made after four of the 12 Filipino athletes bound for the Olympics were presented to the media. They are boxers Violito Payla and Christopher Camat, archer Jasmin Figueroa and shooter Jethro Dionisio.

Three swimmers—Miguel Molina, Juan Carlos Mendoza and Carlo Piccio —have also qualified for the Olympics through the Grade B standard. However, Dayrit said, the country may only send two of them because Piccio made the cut in the same 400-m individual medley event as Molina.

Under Olympics rules, if a country makes it through the Grade B standard, it can only field one swimmer per event. Molina happens to be the country's strongest bet in the 400 IM.

Molina also made it in the 200 freestyle, 200 breaststroke and 200 IM.

Dayrit said the swimming association has yet to decide on the fate of Piccio.

Mendoza qualified in the 400-m and 1,500-m freestyle.

Figueroa, 19, will be competing in her first Olympics. The shy archer, who snagged a Fita wild card berth, also captured gold in the last SEAG.

Athletics will field SEAG multiple gold winners Eduardo Buenavista and Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito. Buenavista will compete in the 10,000-m, 5,000-m and 3,000-m steeplechase, while Gabito will see action in the long jump.

Camat, the Fil-Am fighter who has been

DAYRIT/ A30

FOUR members of the country's Olympic team—Camat, Payla, Figueroa and Dionisio—receive their competition suits and other gear from POC president Dayrit (right) and RP delegation chief of mission Hontiveros (left). ROGER CARPIO

2nd Epson badminton camp reels off Monday

THE SECOND training schedule of the Epson Summer Badminton Camp reels off May 10 with hundreds of badminton enthusiasts expected to troop to the Pioneer Badminton Club in Mandaluyong City.

Camp director Eg Lim will facilitate the camp along with former national teammates Steven Yan and Malvin Alcala in the event sponsored by Epson, Regatta, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-lite.

Lim said the participants would learn the fundamentals of the sport and improve their motor skills aside from gaining knowledge of the rules of the game and court discipline and etiquette.

Training modules will also be prepared for the participants to get the feel of actual competition and practice what they have learned during the camp, which runs until May 31.

Registration fee is P2,500. Interested parties may call 7460828 or 6385343.

The participants will undergo 10 training sessions scheduled three times a week either on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or a program to be held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Pioneer Badminton Club's Edmin Tarriela said the first batch of participants in the Epson Summer Badminton Camp had shown great improvement as far as skill level is concerned.

Tarriela added Epson would organize a mini-tournament for the camp participants to see how they fare after going through the training sessions under the tutelage of Lim, Alcala and Yan.

Australia-bound Tan Ho rips Saraza, gains Truflex finals

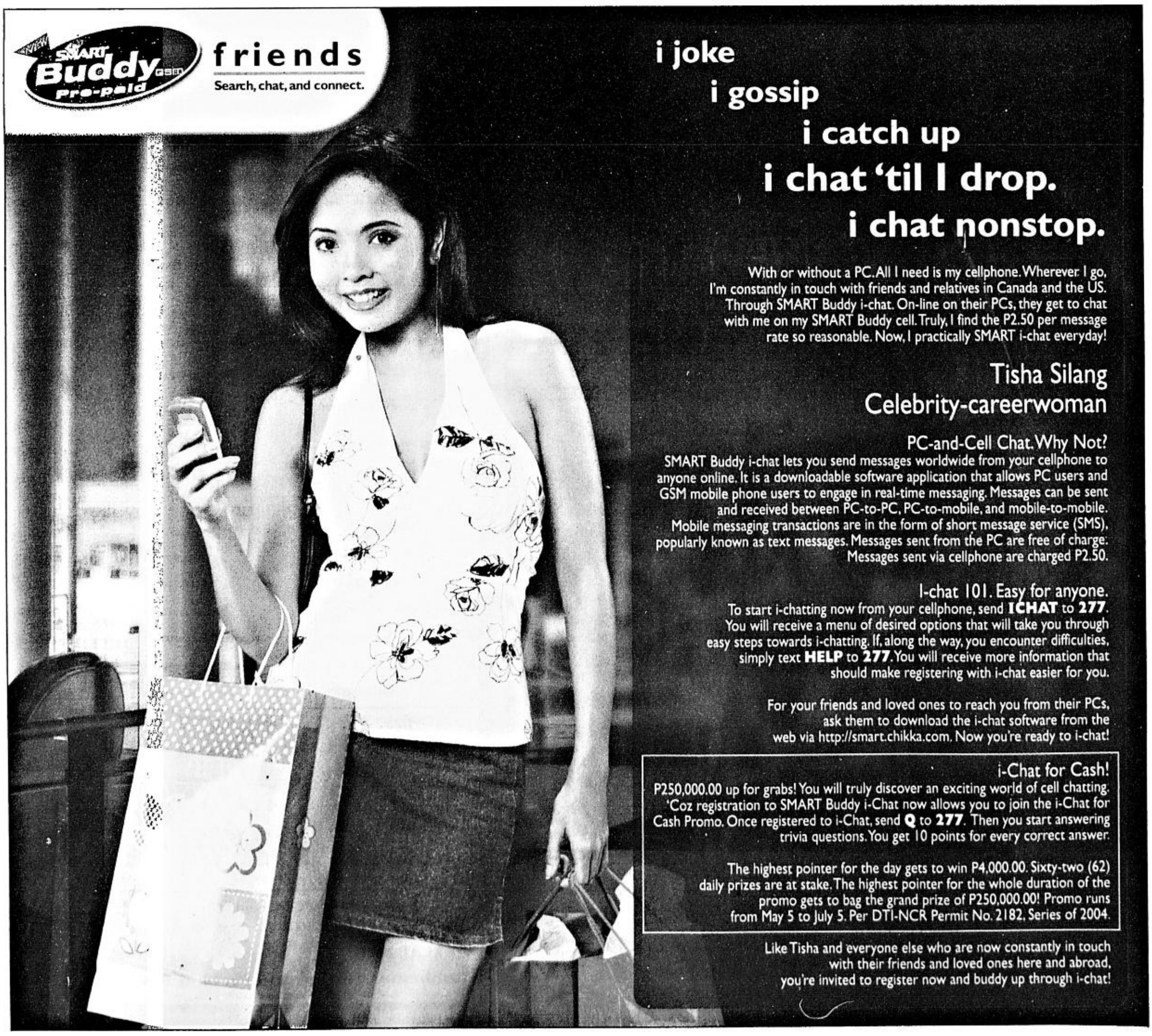
INTERNATIONAL School bet Joshua Tan Ho ended the giant-killing ways of 12th seed Kim Ivor Saraza, 6-4, 6-1, yesterday to reach the boys' 14-under finals in the Truflex National Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The fourth-seeded Tan Ho, one of eight Filipinos seeing action in the World Junior Championships 14-Under Asia-Oceania qualifying tournament next week in Australia, arranged a clash with seventh seed Francis Casey Alcantara, who scored a 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory over Pablo Olivarez II.

In the girls' 16-under play, top seed Bambi Zoleta defeated fourth seed Trudy Amoranto, 6-4, 6-1, to advance to the finals against second seed Jessica Marie Agra, who rallied past third seed Nikki Manalo, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

Boys' 16-under top seed Ralph Kevin Barte beat fifth seed Russell Arcilla Jr., 6-1, 6-3; second seed Raymond Villarete outplayed No. 8 James Murrell, 6-3, 7-5; fourth seed El Santo Santos struggled past No. 7 Miguel Antonio Pantua, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; and sixth seed Leyan Moncera upset third seed Daniel Luis Macalino, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, to likewise earn berths in the semifinals of this event supported by Prince, Khong Guan and Chris Sports.

In the unisex 10-under division, second seed Sally Mae Siso downed third seed Jacob Lagman, 6-3, 6-3, to arrange a final showdown with fourth seed Tim Polero, a 6-4, 6-2 winner over seventh seed Fracis Delec Alcantara.



SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

B1

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Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

Price hikes loom as oil prices soar

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy expressed "serious concern" over the escalating prices of oil in the world market, with the benchmark Dubai crude hitting a 13-year high Thursday.

Dubai crude, the benchmark used by local oil refiners in pricing their products, soared to $34.55 a barrel on May 6, almost 47 percent higher than a year ago.

In April, Dubai crude averaged $31.68 a barrel, up 83 US cents from the $30.85 average price in March.

The high Dubai crude price was attributed to the continued threats to the Iraqi oil infrastructure, rebounding economies like China that required more energy, and low oil reserves in the United States.

Crude prices in the United States also hit a 13-year high at $38 a barrel. For most of the past three weeks, prices have hovered at the $37-per-barrel level due to fears of a supply shortfall.

Wholesale gasoline prices in the United States likewise soared to a 20-year high, also attributed to apprehensions that supply might not be able to meet peak summer demand there.

Considering these factors, Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion warned of another oil price increase the

PRICE/ B2

Forex reserves hit $16.4B in April

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves surged to $16.42 billion as of end-April from $16.34 billion a month ago mainly due to inflows from fresh public sector borrowings.

The improved foreign reserves position was expected to result in a surplus in the country's balance of payment (BOP) for the second consecutive month in April after a $443-million surplus in March.

"At this level, GIR was adequate to cover 4.5 months of imports of goods and payments of services and income," BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said yesterday.

"Alternatively, using other measures of reserve coverage, current level was equivalent to 2.8 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.5 times based on residual maturity," Reyes said.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding short-term external debt on original maturity plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

The increase in April reserves was due mainly to the deposit by the national government of the proceeds from its zero-coupon treasury bond issue and the medium- and long-term borrowing of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

During the month, the BSP raised $500 million from a syndicate of foreign banks to cover its remaining refinancing requirements for this year.

Net portfolio inflows during the first three

FOREX/ B8

INDICATORS

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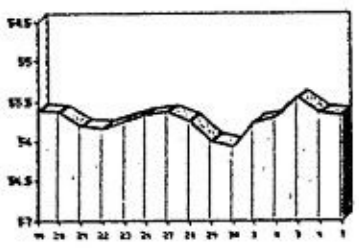

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As of 5 p.m., May 7, 2004

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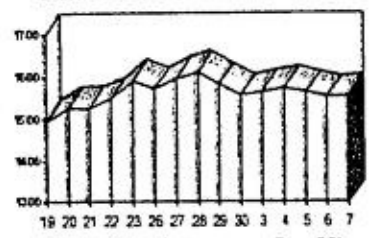
per ounce Hong Kong, May 7, 2004

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks up as investors see GMA win

STOCKS finished higher yesterday, the last trading day before national elections on Monday, with investors hoping President Macapagal-Arroyo would romp home, dealers said.

Telecom shares, led by market leader PLDT and second-ranked Globe Telecom, climbed after strong quarterly earnings this week and improved outlook.

Analysts said reports that vote-rich religious groups had thrown their support behind the incumbent president against political neophyte and movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. boosted sentiment.

"President Macapagal would seem to be the logical bet right now given the endorsements and survey results," said Asiasec Equities research head Oliver Plana.

"If she does win, there will be continuity as far as government programs are concerned. If someone else wins, there will be a learning period, so a Macapagal victory will take that out."

Besides a president and vice president, Filipinos will elect members of Congress and 17,000 other officials at all levels of government on Monday.

The main index ended three points or 0.19 percent higher at 1,554.69 points. The market is up 7.79 percent so far this year.

Turnover dropped to P563.28 million from Thursday's P803.44 million, as gainers beat losers 27 to 17

Reuters

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RP taps Korea for $50-M loan

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES has tapped South Korea's multilateral lending institutions for a $50.4-million long-term loan that would cover part of the P3.6-billion rehabilitation of the accident-prone south line of the Philippine National Railway system.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said that Republic of Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund and its Export-Import Bank have agreed to provide low-interest funding to help finance the first-phase upgrade of PNR's South Manila line.

The 32-kilometer South Manila line stretches from Samson Road in Caloocan to Alabang.

Last month, marketing executive Carlos Abrera was hit by a PNR train on its way to Alabang. Abrera was at Natty's Garden along the railroad tracks near the East Service Road in Western Bicutan, Taguig, when the train approached. Several other fatal accidents took place along the PNR's south line.

Mendoza said the first phase of the project would include the fencing of station premises and improve signaling and communications facilities. He said the improvement should reduce the accidents on the railway tracks.

PNR general manager Jose Ma. Sarasola II said the rehabilitation of the Caloocan-Alabang line would speed up the travel time to 30 minutes for the whole stretch.

After the upgrade, the South Manila line could carry roughly 187,000 passengers a day using 21 units of new diesel railcars to be acquired under the project. It would have 16 improved stations.

Korea's development fund would provide a $35-million loan while its Export-Import Bank would account for $15.42 million to complete the foreign component of the project financing.

The government would provide the local component equivalent to $14.26 million to secure right-of-way plus some infrastructure for the railway line.

Mendoza said the Korean multilateral creditors would charge an interest of 2.5 percent a year on the 10-year loan. He added that the national government would provide a sovereign guarantee on the loan.

Sarasola II said the first-phase upgrade would also cover improvement of the railway tracks, strengthening of the old PNR lines, double-tracking of the Sucat-Alabang line, improvements of stations, depots and maintenance equipment.

Eventually, the rehabilitated South Manila railway would be interconnected to the Northrail, the LRT lines and MRT 3 as part of the integration of Manila's railway system.

PRESIDENT Macapagal visits for the second time Customer Contact Center Inc. (C-Cubed), the first and only ISO 9001:2000-certified call center in the country. Ms Macapagal's visit in C-Cubed signifies government's interest in the booming call center industry. Her presence in C-Cubed was part of her visit in Eastwood City Cyberpark in Libis, Quezon City. Photo shows Ms Macapagal approaching work stations to chat with the company's customer service representatives (CSRs) during the facility tour. Looking on are (from left) Megaworld Corp. president Andrew Tan and Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima.

Price hikes loom as oil prices soar

From page B1

week after elections. If local pump prices would go up this month, that would be the sixth increase for the year.

He said oil refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. could possibly raise the pump prices of gasoline by 10 centavos and that of diesel by 50 centavos a liter during the week starting May 17.

New oil players, on the other hand, could jack up gasoline prices by the same level, but diesel prices could shoot up by as much as P1 more a liter from the current average of about P17.80 to P18.

But based on market forces and competition, Concepcion said the new oil players could very well just follow the level at which the oil refiners would raise their prices, both for gasoline and diesel.

For his part, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez appealed to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to increase its crude production so that the "artificially high prices" of oil in the world market would go down.

"Prices have already been soaring because of low inventories in the US. We therefore call on Opec to consider this appeal when they meet informally during the producer-consumer summit on May 24 to review the world oil market," he said

"World economies are growing faster than expected, owing to the strong growth in China as recently reported by the International Energy Agency. It will be a very serious setback if these artificially high prices will continue to prevail," he added.

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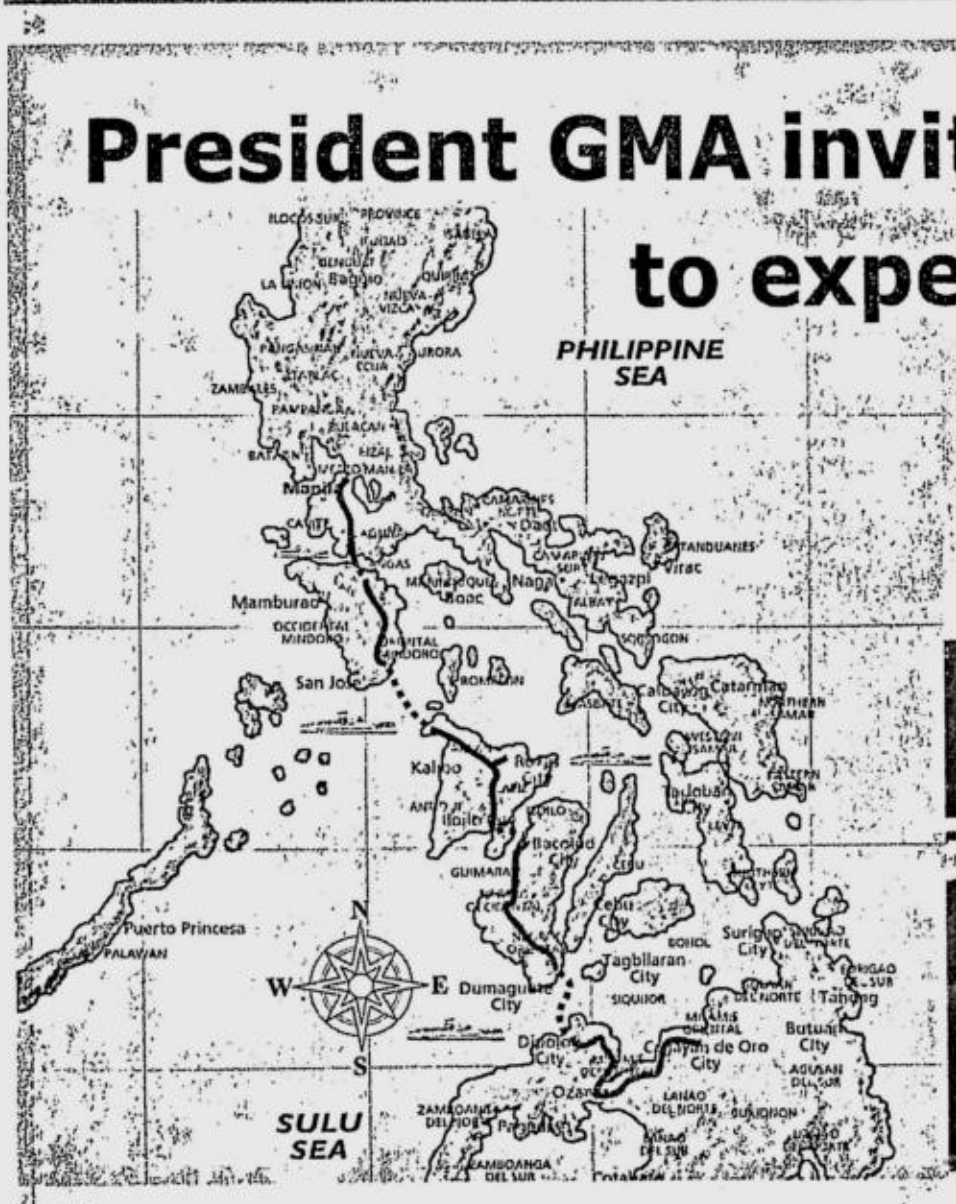

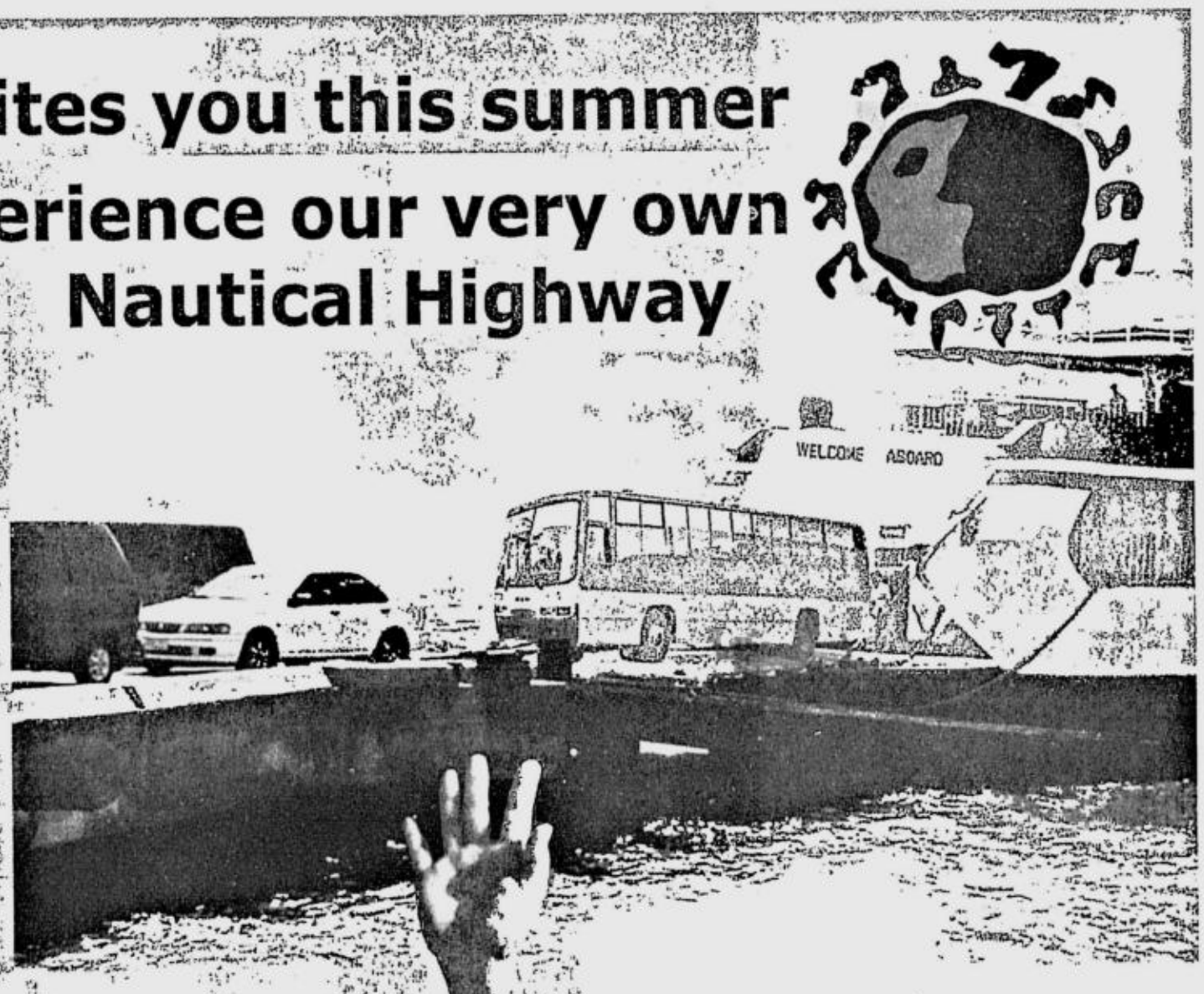

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Ayala IT company expands in Europe

By Doris C. Dumlao

EAZIX Inc., a unit of the Ayalas' Integrated Microelectronics Inc., has tied up with German firm MEV Electronik Service Gmbh on a wireless solutions venture in Central and Eastern Europe.

IMI, the fifth biggest revenue earner among the subsidiaries of Ayala Corp., yesterday said MEV Electronik would market Eazix's wireless connectivity original design manufacturing (ODM) products.

Eazix president and CEO Arthur Tan said: "We expect MEV's extensive marketing experience, technical expertise and concentrated support to strengthen our position with major European electronics manufacturers."

MEV Elektronik is a Germany-based distributor and stocking representative for electronic niche components. It offers procurement of electronic components and logistics services to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) as well as electronic manufacturing service companies in Central and Eastern Europe.

The German firm will thus become an authorized distributor of Eazix's line of wireless connectivity ODM products, including wireless local area network embedded modules and adapters, mini PCI, and compact flash standard interface.

Eazix's upcoming solutions available in Europe also include wireless multi-media adaptors, remote automation and control solutions, Zigbee and bluetooth modules and adapters.

The Eazix-MEV distribution partnership capitalizes on Eazix' strength in firmware and hardware design for wireless ODM solutions and design services, and MEV's outstanding experience in distribution to established OEMs, particularly in the telecommunications, automotive and industrial electronics segments.

For his part, MEV president Dieter Tappmeyer said: "We foresee high demand coming from European wireless OEMs for wireless ODM platforms that will require more complex level of customization, such as the solutions developed by Eazix."

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DTI forms body to handle pyramiding cases

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday announced it had formed a special legal task force to prosecute pyramiding cases.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the body would be under the overall supervision of Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr., who is in charge of the consumer welfare and trade regulation group.

"With the task force in place, the DTI can now fast-track the review of the complaints against pyramiding and hopefully clamp down on illegal marketing schemes," Purisima said.

The trade chief said operators of such schemes were preying on unwary consumers, especially overseas Filipino workers.

The functions of the task force include helping DTI regional offices in evaluating the marketing plans of businesses as well as the complaints against pyramiding; initiating legal or administrative proceedings against firms suspected to be engaged in pyramiding; formulating and conducting education campaigns for the public; and coordinating with other government agencies and law enforcement entities to promote a sustained drive against pyramiding.

For his part, Cristobal said the DTI was stepping up efforts to fight illegal business practices.

"The DTI is going after these companies by establishing strong links with other agencies as well as nongovernment institutions," he said.

Cristobal said the DTI had signed a memorandum of agreement with the Direct Selling Association of the Philippines (DSAP) to launch a nationwide information drive on the matter.

Cristobal said he had told direct sellers that one way to stem pyramiding scams was to promote self-regulation among industry players.

"While the government is all out in its efforts to prosecute perpetrators of this illegal practice, a large part also depends on industry players themselves," he said. "An industry association provides for clout and teeth in enforcing certain standards of etiquette among players."

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KALSADA NATIN, AALAGAAN NATIN (KANAN): Jobs for the unskilled and unemployed

Mandated under RA 8794 of 1999, the program employed some 300,000 people who were otherwise jobless and unskilled, with total wages paid amounting to more than P1.4 billion, from October 2003 to March 2004.

EXPANDED PHILHEALTH PROGRAM: Free health care for the indigents

About 5 million indigent and poor families, equivalent to about 25 million individuals, were provided with health insurance by President Gloria under the National Health Insurance Program instituted under RA 7875. About P3 billion has been allotted for the program by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Department of Budget and Management. About 65 million Filipinos are now assured of affordable health care services under the program.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND FOR A STRONG REPUBLIC (SAFE4SR): Quick loans for college students

As of April 2004 some 25,000 students were provided assistance under the SAFE4SR program. The program extended loans to graduating college students to P8,000 per semester, payable starting two years after graduation. A total of P500 million has been allocated for the program.

GSIS SUMMER-ONE-MONTH-SALARY (SOS) LOAN PROGRAM: Assistance to ordinary government workers

About 800,000 government employees benefited from ths SOS program. A total of P8.5 billion was released as of April 2004 which tremendously helped alleviate the country's civil servants.

PATUBIG SA BARANGAY PROGRAM: Access to clean water for the urban poor

As of April 20, 2004, more than 800,000 urban poor households in Metro Manila and provinces of Rizal, Cavite and Bulacan were provided with clean water using earnings of PAGCOR.

HYBRID RICE PROGRAM: Improving the yields and lives of the impoverished farmers

"Gloria Rice" has provided new jobs for more than 160,000 farm workers, generating additional income of more than P20 million for our poor farmers. The program increased by more than double the harvests of the farmers from 6.6 metric tons to a record of 11.1 tons, dramatically improving their incomes. The program could totally eliminate rice importations. The millions of dollars spent yearly on rice imports could now be used to further modernize our agriculture, thus improving the lives of our millions of poor farmers.

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Gov't urged to address power problems

FORMER Energy Secretary Francisco L. Viray urged the government and the private sector to take immediate steps to solve the problems plaguing the power industry today: uncompetitive power rates and supply shortage.

During the forum, "The Present and Future Challenges in the Power Sector: The Engineering Perspective," Viray said there were three options to address these problems. First, government could continue building power plants; second, have more BOT (build-operate-transfer) contracts with National Power Corp. (Napocor) as the sole buyer; and third, effectively implement the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

Viray cited the proper implementation of the Epira remains the most viable option in solving much of the industry's woes. He added that all the other problems associated with the industry today like the PPA (power purchase adjustment) or the Meralco refund can be solved, while implementing the Epira. In the process, privatization will also succeed and the twin problems of power shortages and electricity rates will be addressed.

Viray noted that the correct and immediate implementation of the Epira was critical since "energy is a long-term game and could not be fixed overnight. The solutions have to be planned, since the benefits cannot be realized instantly."

"You and I know that it takes time to finance and build a power plant, roughly five years. And you never know what will happen during those years. Putting up a power plant is fraught with risks and delays. Napocor projects always had schedules but there were always unforeseen problems and therefore you can never be too theoretical about the schedule," Viray explained.

An ADB study reveals that the Philippines needs an additional capacity of 6,000 megawatts entailing a cost of $7.45 billion over the next 10 years to avert another power crisis. Several sectors have questioned if government can undertake this on its own, or without additional outside investments, especially since Napocor has accumulated debts of almost $10 billion and losses worth P100 billion.

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By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday announced it had formed a special legal task force to prosecute pyramiding cases.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the body would be under the overall supervision of Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr., who is in charge of the consumer welfare and trade regulation group.

"With the task force in place, the DTI can now fast-track the review of the complaints against pyramiding and hopefully clamp down on illegal marketing schemes," Purisima said.

The trade chief said operators of such schemes were preying on unwary consumers, especially overseas Filipino workers.

The functions of the task force include helping DTI regional offices in evaluating the marketing plans of businesses as well as the complaints against pyramiding; initiating legal or administrative proceedings against firms suspected to be engaged in pyramiding; formulating and conducting education campaigns for the public; and coordinating with other government agencies and law enforcement entities to promote a sustained drive against pyramiding.

For his part, Cristobal said the DTI was stepping up efforts to fight illegal business practices.

"The DTI is going after these companies by establishing strong links with other agencies as well as non-government institutions," he said.

Cristobal said the DTI had signed a memorandum of agreement with the Direct Selling Association of the Philippines (DSAP) to launch a nationwide information drive on the matter.

Cristobal said he had told direct sellers that one way to stem pyramiding scams was to promote self-regulation among industry players.

"While the government is all out in its efforts to prosecute perpetrators of this illegal practice, a large part also depends on industry players themselves," he said. "An industry association provides for clout and teeth in enforcing certain standards of etiquette among players."

YES, PRESIDENT GLORIA HAS BEEN USING GOVERNMENT FUNDS ...TO HELP THE POOR.

KALSADA NATIN, AALAGAAN NATIN (KANAN): Jobs for the unskilled and unemployed

Mandated under RA 8794 of 1999, the program employed some 300,000 people who were otherwise jobless and unskilled, with total wages paid amounting to more than P1.4 billion, from October 2003 to March 2004.

EXPANDED PHILHEALTH PROGRAM: Free health care for the indigents

About 5 million indigent and poor families, equivalent to about 25 million individuals, were provided with health insurance by President Gloria under the National Health Insurance Program instituted under RA 7875. About P3 billion has been allotted for the program by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Department of Budget and Management. About 65 million Filipinos are now assured of affordable health care services under the program.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND FOR A STRONG REPUBLIC (SAFE4SR): Quick loans for college students

As of April 2004 some 25,000 students were provided assistance under the SAFE4SR program. The program extended loans to graduating college students to P8,000 per semester, payable starting two years after graduation. A total of P500 million has been allocated for the program.

GSIS SUMMER-ONE-MONTH-SALARY (SOS) LOAN PROGRAM: Assistance to ordinary government workers

About 800,000 government employees benefited from ths SOS program. A total of P8.5 billion was released as of April 2004 which tremendously helped alleviate the country's civil servants.

PATUBIG SA BARANGAY PROGRAM: Access to clean water for the urban poor

As of April 20, 2004, more than 800,000 urban poor households in Metro Manila and provinces of Rizal, Cavite and Bulacan were provided with clean water using earnings of PAGCOR.

HYBRID RICE PROGRAM: Improving the yields and lives of the impoverished farmers

"Gloria Rice" has provided new jobs for more than 160,000 farm workers, generating additional income of more than P20 million for our poor farmers. The program increased by more than double the harvests of the farmers from 6.6 metric tons to a record of 11.1 tons, dramatically improving their incomes. The program could totally eliminate rice importations. The millions of dollars spent yearly on rice imports could now be used to further modernize our agriculture, thus improving the lives of our millions of poor farmers.

THE OPPOSITION wants to stop these programs. We say:

YES! MRS. PRESIDENT, PLEASE CONTINUE USING GOVERNMENT FUNDS TO HELP THE POOR!

PRO-GLORIA
(Progressive and Responsive Organizations for Good Leadership Outstanding Reforms and Intelligent Actions)

Gov't urged to address power problems

FORMER Energy Secretary Francisco L. Viray urged the government and the private sector to take immediate steps to solve the problems plaguing the power industry today: uncompetitive power rates and supply shortage.

During the forum, "The Present and Future Challenges in the Power Sector: The Engineering Perspective," Viray said there were three options to address these problems. First, government could continue building power plants; second, have more BOT (build-operate-transfer) contracts with National Power Corp. (Napocor) as the sole buyer; and third, effectively implement the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

Viray cited the proper implementation of the Epira remains the most viable option in solving much of the industry's woes. He added that all the other problems associated with the industry today like the PPA (power purchase adjustment) or the Malaco refund can be solved, while implementing the Epira. In the process, privatization will also succeed and the twin problems of power shortages and electricity rates will be addressed.

Viray noted that the correct and immediate implementation of the Epira was critical since energy is a long-term game and could not be fixed overnight. The projections have to be planned, since the benefits cannot be realized instantly.

"You and I know that it takes time to finance and power [illegible] five [illegible] never know what happen during the years. Putting power plant fraught with and delays. Napocor projects always had schedules but they were always unforeseen problems therefore you can never be too [illegible] about the [illegible] Viray explained.

An ADB study reveals that the Philippines needs additional capacity 6,000 megawatts costing a cost of $8 billion over the 10 years to avoid other power [illegible]. Several sectors have questioned if government can undertake this on its own or without additional outside investments especially as Napocor has accumulated debts of almost $10 billion and [illegible] worth P100 billio

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Consumers seek access to electric meter deposits

By Abigail L. Ho

CONSUMER group National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore) urged the Energy Regulatory Commission to order Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. to place in escrow more than P12 billion in meter and bill deposits that the firm had collected over the years.

In a motion filed with the ERB, Nasecore said that placing the meter and bill deposits in a separate account would ensure that Meralco customers would be able to access the fund when they want to do so.

"Our request is based primarily on the consideration that meter and bill deposits should be readily available to Meralco customers at any time they may want to withdraw the deposit plus the accrued interests thereon from the date of its payment," Nasecore president Pete Ilagan said in a statement yesterday.

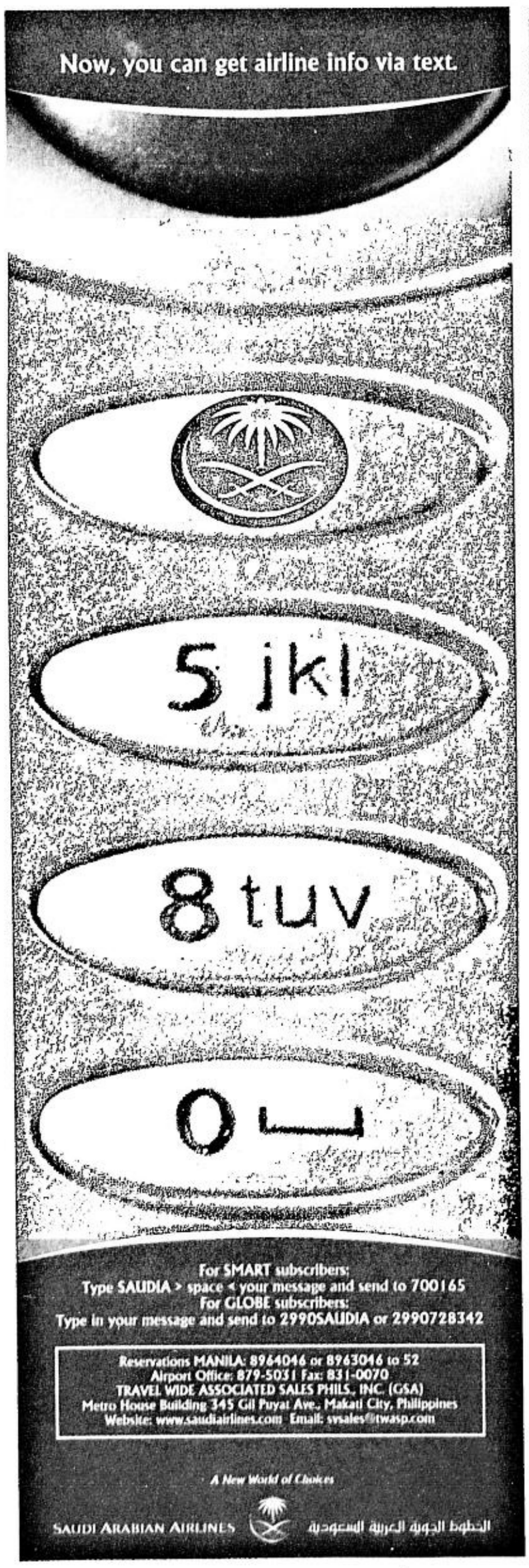
He added that the escrow account would also give Meralco consumers at least some assurance that they would later on be able to get back the deposits that the Lopez-led firm collected.

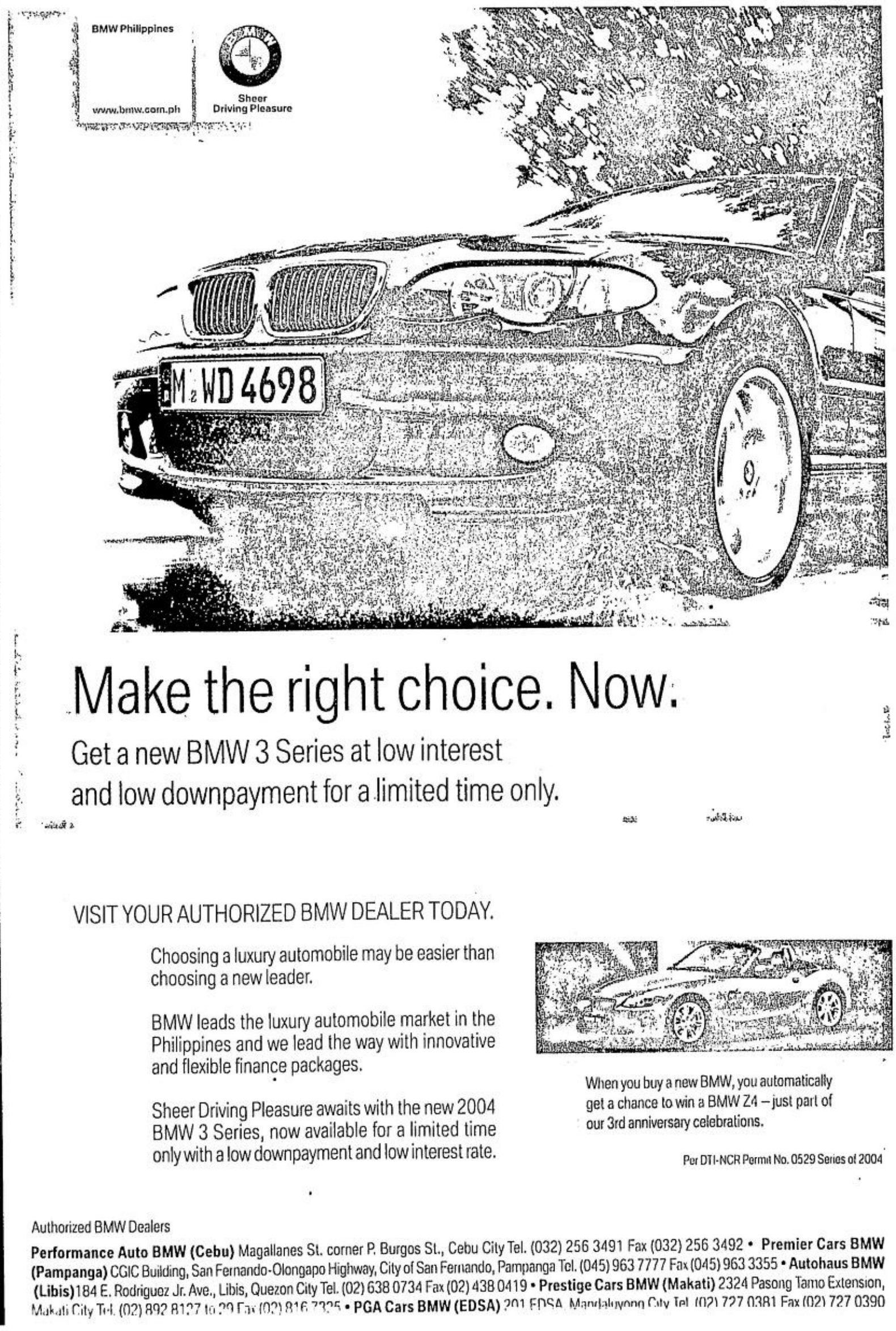
As Meralco was using part of the meter and bill deposits that it was collecting from its customers to help fund its daily operations, he said there was a chance that the money might no longer be able to go back to the hands of the consumers.

"We are afraid that Meralco may not be able to refund the customers' meter and bill deposits with its accrued interest, especially if there will be a mass request for refund," he said.

"Meralco officials admitted during the hearing for the instant application that part of these deposits were being used for its daily operations and were also invested in high-yielding financial instruments."

Ilagan said Meralco could use financial difficulties as a reason to have the refund of these meter and bill deposits done in phases, similar to its four-phase, P30-billion refund for overcharges.





Time to renew our sense of unity

DEMOCRACY'S WAY

Over these four months we have argued about who would make the best President, and which political party would govern most competently.

This is democracy's way. Potential leaders acquire the authority to rule through a competitive struggle for the people's vote.

Now that the campaign is over, it is time to renew our sense of unity as a people.

Panahon nang magkaisa tayong muli sa damdamin, isip, at hangarin.

WE ARE FILIPINOS BEFORE WE ARE PARTISANS

We were fellow-Filipinos before we were partisans of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Fernando Poe Jr., Senator Raul Roco, Senator Panfilo Lacson or Brother Eddie Villanueva.

And we'll be fellow-Filipinos still—long after we've folded the banners of this campaign.

In our finest moments, we Filipinos have proved ourselves capable of feats of community feeling and concerted action.

Our Revolution of 1896 was such a moment.

So were the two episodes of *People Power* that rebuilt the ramparts of our democracy.

To that height of unity we must return—if we are to deal with the problems that face our country.

A GOVERNMENT OF THE BRIGHTEST AND THE BEST

This is why President Arroyo and the Administration party have decided that, if she wins a mandate in Monday's election, she would form a 'Government of National Unity.'

This will mean the building of more inclusive political coalitions and the sharing of executive power—just as legislative power is shared by majority and minority parties in Congress.

A Government of National Unity will draw out the poison in the political atmosphere which has sapped our capacity to overcome our problems—problems that now include the threat of terrorist attacks.

A Government of National Unity will enable the next Administration to enlist the *brightest* and the *best* in *all* our parties and party-list groupings, as well as in civil society, into the public service.

A Government of National Unity will enable us to focus—*undistracted* by partisan concerns—on reforming politics and governance; making the economy a more efficient creator of social wealth; and improving the quality of life for all our people.

A Government of National Unity could also begin the process of shifting constitutionally to the parliamentary system, the open economy, and the federal mode that our most thoughtful leaders now regard as the best-suited to our stage of political development.

NO LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

Continued partisan bickering will condemn us to being a backwater in the world's fastest-growing economic region.

We must move quickly toward unity—if we are to regain the initiative in Southeast Asia that we held, all too briefly, in the post-Independence period.

Singly, we Filipinos have *excelled*—even against the best in the world.

Where we have failed is in working together.

Yet everyone of us has something fine and precious to contribute to the strengthening of Filipino community.

There's no limit to what we can do together—if we have the faith, the will, and the heart.

KOALISYON NG KATAPATAN AT KARANASAN PARA SA KINABUKASAN

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Napocor ordered to refund industrial users

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission has ordered National Power Corp. to give back 30 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to its qualified industrial customers under the government's Special Program to Enhance Electricity Demand (SPEED).

The recently issued directive came as a result of Napocor's failure to "satisfactorily explain" why it did not refund in full the 80-centavo-per-kWh discount that SPEED participants were entitled to.

On Oct. 11, 2002, the ERC ordered a rate discount of 80 centavos per kWh for SPEED participants. However, Napocor only implemented a 50-centavo rate cut for its customers who were covered by the SPEED.

"The 30-centavo difference must be returned to the concerned industrial electricity users. We have ordered Napocor to propose to us a scheme to effect the refund to affected customers," ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. said in a statement yesterday.

Under the SPEED, industrial and commercial power users consuming at least 1,000 kilowatts (1 megawatt) of electricity per month would be given fixed discounts of 80 centavos per kWh in Luzon, 70 centavos per kWh in the Visayas and 10 centavos per kWh in Mindanao.

The scheme is a joint venture between the Department of Energy and the Department of Trade and Industry.

It was instituted to boost electricity demand and at the same time help distressed industries.

While expected to generate more productivity, an increase in power demand would also minimize Napocor's unutilized capacity.

AEV profit up 13.5%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures said its net profits climbed 13.5 percent in the first quarter to P440 million.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) improved 4 percent to P1.2 billion from the same quarter last year.

The biggest contributors to AEV's profits were its power companies which chipped in a combined total of P219 million in terms of income. This, however, is 20 percent lower than its combined contribution in the first quarter of 2003.

The decrease was due to lower profits from Luzon Hydro Corp. and the two diesel plants in Mindanao—Western Mindanao Power Corp. and Southern Philippines Power Corp.

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS — dti DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of PHILEX MINING CORPORATION with office address at Philex Building, 27 Brixton Street Kapitolyo, Pasig City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as Expanding Export Producer of Copper Concentrates at a capacity of 6,800,000 MTPY with project site at the Padcal, Tuba, Benguet has been officially accepted on April 22, 2004.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 22nd day of April 2004.

FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

A special message from KA WALDY

"Vote DOC HUSSIN for Senator"

"DOC HUSSIN is a healer, a gifted physician, a peacemaker, a true patriot, and a visionary leader from Mindanao. Beyond doubt, DOC HUSSIN is one of the most progressive and thoughtful voices of our Filipino Muslim community."

Iboto ang KAPAYAPAAN

Iboto ang KAUNLARAN

Iboto ang PAGKAKAISA

Iboto ang PAGKAKAPANTAY-PANTAY ng mga MUSLIM at KRISTIYANO

KA WALDY CARBONELL
Alpha Phi Omega International Fraternity & Sorority BATCH '62

Watch Ka Waldy on "45 Minutos" every Saturday, 9:15 to 10:00 pm on NBN TV Channel 4.

PAID BY THE CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ASSOCIATION
10/F, Ponce Plaza One, Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati Business District

A PUBLIC SERVICE ADVISORY regarding SUNSCREENS from the PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY

It is summer time and everyone is very concerned about sunscreen or sunblock use.

Here are some facts for your guidance and to correct your misconceptions, if any, regarding the use of sunscreens.

1. The Sun Protection Factor (SPF) is a measure of protection against Ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation-inducing sunburn. The number indicates by what factor one is protected from sunburn with its use. It does not however accurately measure protection against tanning or getting dark with sun exposure because tanning is also strongly induced by another type of ultraviolet radiation called Ultraviolet A (UVA). To date, there is no universally accepted commercial standard for measuring UVA protection.

2. Not all sunscreens cover against the entire spectrum of both UVB and UVA radiation. A broad spectrum sunscreen is preferred because both UVB and UVA cause damage as mentioned above as well as long-term effects like wrinkling, pigmentation and skin cancer.

3. For short daily sun exposures, as in crossing the street or walking from one building to another, a sunscreen with SPF 15-20 will suffice. Higher SPFs like 30-50 or even higher are generally used for prolonged exposure while in the beach or engaging in outdoor sports. These are also recommended for individuals who have sun-provoked or sun-aggravated diseases or are taking medications which make them sensitive to the sun.

4. Higher SPFs are achieved by increasing the amounts and types of ingredients, both chemical and physical. The potential for irritancy and allergic reactions therefore increases. Super high SPFs may not only be unnecessary, they may also be potentially harmful.

5. To achieve the SPF as labeled, proper application is necessary. Apply sunscreen evenly 30 minutes prior to sun exposure. For the face, each arm, each leg, exposed shoulders and neck, about ½ to 1 teaspoon of sunscreen should be applied. Reapplication is necessary every hour if sweating or swimming, and every 2 hours if spent out of water.

6. Sunscreens should not be used to justify prolonged, unnecessary sun exposure especially if proper application is not observed and a broad spectrum sunscreen is not used.

For further explanations, consult a certified dermatologist.

This health information is brought to you by Skin, Hair and Nail Health Education Program (SKINHELP) of the PDS through an educational grant from Neutrogena - Johnson-Johnson *(Philippines), Inc.*

PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1947

ADVT

Ayala Q1 earnings surge 40%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA Corp., the country's oldest conglomerate said its net earnings surged 40 percent to P920 million in the first three months from the P656 million last year. The growth was driven by its mobile phone and banking businesses.

AC in its disclosure said the robust financial performance of Globe Telecom and Bank of the Philippine Islands with Ayala's core businesses in property, and development unit AC Capital contributed a total of P2.3 billion in equity earnings to the holding company.

The growth was achieved despite higher interest and financing charges that grew 13 percent due to a combination of higher average loan balances and borrowing costs.

"We are pleased with our first quarter performance," said Ayala president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II. "The growth momentum in our recurring earnings stream has been sustained as our key businesses continue to deliver very strong financial and operating results. As we look forward to a stable post-election economic environment, we are optimistic that 2004 will be an even better year for Ayala and that we will be able to deliver even more value to our shareholders," Zobel said.

Ayala's key subsidiaries and affiliates also reported positive results.

Its property arm Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) reported a 5-percent growth in net income to P536 million, with revenues expanding 19 percent to P3.7 billion. ALI's leasing operations continued to perform favorably as rental revenues grew 9 percent to P947 million on high occupancy rates at Ayala Center and the company's and office buildings, the contribution of its new mall Greenbelt 4, an effective merchant replacement program and same-store sales growth of 10 percent at Ayala Center. Project take-up was also stronger in the first quarter as land and residential unit sales in ALI's high-end markets both increased 14 percent year-on-year.

Building ties with consumers via kite-flying

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—"Summer breeze makes me feel fine, blowing through the jasmine in my mind." So much for that 1971 Seals & Crofts' song, "Summer Breeze," and the anxious waiting for Jasmine Trias and the American Idol.

Summer breeze indeed evoked a time when living was easy and we were flying kites instead of covering politicians.

I remembered that song when I passed by Burnham Park two weeks ago and realized that I could not see the football grounds because of these hundreds of colorful political buntings and streamers blocking the view.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Breather

They were all smiling but years of writing about them would tell you the difference between a real smile and a Judas smile.

But look up ahead and you see dozens of kites participating in the Bear Brand Kitefest. Then you see that century-old tree, probably planted by Daniel Burnham when he designed the park, still devouring wayward kites. That tree had been devouring kites when I was young.

So there we were, deciding not to attend another press conference of a politician and decided to just sit on the grass and watch the kites fly.

The Bear Brand Kitefest (BBKF) has been a summer activity since 1990. During that Luneta Bear Brand's "Bears in Flight," only about 100 people joined.

Edmund Tamayo of AdVerb PR remembered being among the handful who watched that inaugural flight.

"It was a modest event compared to what it is now. But since 1990, the BBKF has logged close to 25,000 entries. The biggest number of entries in a single leg was this year's kick-off leg in Davao last February, with a record 1,201 kite entries," said Tamayo.

ERIK ARAZAS

CHILDREN display their kites during a previous Bear Brand Kite Festival.

Family activity

It was tempting to ask if sales of Bear Brand also soared like a kite during a typhoon.

But Miko Acuña, brand manager of Bear Brand for Nestle, said the contest was an initiative of Bear Brand to associate itself with a wholesome family activity.

"The impact of the BBKF on the brand is highly positive, but it is more of an effort to build good relationships with consumers rather than strictly a sales-generating activity," Acuña said.

"First of all, it promotes values that strengthen families like sharing and togetherness; it provides a fun, colorful and exciting outdoor event that families and children in particular, and people of all ages from all walks of life in general, can enjoy.

"It promotes a time-honored,

BUILDING/B9

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 7, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank, Inc.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.15	28,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	42	41.5	41.5	601,000
China Banking Corp.	685	685	685	685	1,290
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	39.5	39	39	252,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24.75	24.75	24	24.5	571,200
Philippine National Bank	23.5	24.25	23.25	24.25	15,300
Security Bank Corp.	16.25	17	16.25	17	3,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24.75	24	24.75	42,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.1	1	1.04	215,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1490	1490	1490	1490	1,700
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.75	23.75	23.25	23.25	15,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.67	0.69	0.67	0.69	500,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	820	830	810	830	95,090
Ipeople Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.2	103,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.62	1.68	1.62	1.66	5,950,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1050	1075	1045	1075	127,220
Ivantage Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	90,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	42,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	20	19.25	20	702,100
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	33	31.5	33	1,212,300
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.3	4,668,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	20,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	1	0.99	1	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	551,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	180,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.52	388,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	181,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	21	21.5	21	21.25	333,400
RFM Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	59.5	59	59.5	53,200
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74	73.5	73.5	267,000
Universal Robina Corp.	7	7	7	7	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	350,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	2,453,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.95	3.05	2.95	3.05	125,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	25,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9.9	9	9.9	7,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.59	0.56	0.59	9,670,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	40,000
DMCI Holdings, Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	20,000
F&J Prince Hldgs. B	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	1,058,700
Ionics Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	16,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.43	0.5	0.43	0.5	80,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.14	2,226,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,550,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	100
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	2,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	11,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	130,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	23.5	23.5	23	23.25	291,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	16,981,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	10,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	150,000
Cyber Bay Corporation	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	3,670,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	6,708,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.175	0.175	0.16	0.16	630,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	410,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.14	150,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.3	2,562,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	60,000
Pacifica	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	7,000,000

DISCLOSURES

ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28 at 3 p.m. at the Mandarin Oriental Manila. Record date is April 21.

* * *

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. will hold an investors' and analysts' briefing on May 13 at 3 p.m. at the ELJ Communications Centre, Quezon City.

* * *

BANKARD Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27 at 2:30 p.m. at RCBC Plaza, Makati. Record date is April 26.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Cosmos Bottling Corp.** were Ramon S. Ang, Roberto N. Huang, Hector P. Guballa, Pacifico M. Fajardo, Gabriel L. Villareal, Ferdinand K. Constantino, Ma. Belen C. Buensuceso, Menardo R. Jimenez and Alfredo C. Antonio.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said it would back Namfrel this coming May 10 national elections by extending the largest and most extensive corporate support with its telecommunications facilities and services.

* * *

PICOP Resources Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 28, with May 28 as record date. Also, the board accepted the resignation of Juanito E. Figueroa as chief financial officer and compliance officer.

Compiled by Erika Sarmiento, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

May 7, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.827746	1.000000	55.5470
Japan	Yen	0.007543	0.009113	0.5062
United Kingdom	Pound	1.486797	1.796200	99.7735
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106135	0.128222	7.1223
Switzerland	Franc	0.644712	0.778877	43.2643
Canada	Dollar	0.600905	0.725953	40.3245
Singapore	Dollar	0.490167	0.592171	32.8933
Australia	Dollar	0.600208	0.725111	40.2777
Bahrain	Dinar	2.195671	2.652590	147.3434
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220727	0.266660	14.8122
Brunei	Dollar	0.488720	0.590423	32.7962
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000095	0.000115	0.0064
Thailand	Baht	0.020756	0.025075	1.3928
UAE	Dirham	0.225372	0.272272	15.1239
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.208100	67.1063
Argentina	Peso	0.286665	0.346320	19.2370
Brazil	Real	0.276561	0.334113	18.5590
Denmark	Kroner	0.134394	0.162361	9.0187
India	Rupee	0.018560	0.022422	1.2455
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217857	0.263193	14.6196
Mexico	New Peso	0.072393	0.087458	4.8580
New Zealand	Dollar	0.523625	0.632591	35.1385
Norway	Kroner	0.122818	0.148377	8.2419
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014408	0.017406	0.9669
South Africa	Rand	0.120254	0.145279	8.0698
Korea	Won	0.000710	0.000858	0.0477
Sweden	Kroner	0.109773	0.132617	7.3665
Syria	Pound	0.018715	0.022609	1.2559
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025030	0.030239	1.6797
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000432	0.000522	0.0290

Forex reserves ...

From page B1

months of April amounted to $58 million, better than the $50.5 million a year ago.

There was likewise some improvement in inflows from overseas Filipino workers ahead of tuition fee payment requirements for the incoming school year.

The April inflows from loans, remittances and investments, however, were partly offset by disbursements to service the debt requirements of both the national government and the BSP.

The BSP's net international reserves, on the other hand, stood at $14 billion as of end-April, inclusive of revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities. The level was 3.2 percent or $428.1 million higher than the end-March level.

As of the first three months of the year, however, the country's BOP still incurred a deficit of $379 million owing to large shortfalls in the first two months.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

May 5, 2004

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Malacañang Palace Compound
New Executive Building
J.P. Laurel Street
San Miguel, Manila

Dear Gloria:

Since my upcoming book tour will prevent me from making a swing through Manila during your campaign, I wanted to drop you a note to send along support in another form.

It's been an honor to call you my friend since we met at Georgetown, and I've been proud of your successes over the years as a skilled economist, legislator, trade official, and now President. The world has clearly taken notice of your leadership. In your short time in office, you've overcome many critical challenges and seem to be making significant progress on many fronts.

I know that you have focused much of your energy on the economy of the Philippines. I agree with that, and your "Pro Poor" agenda is right on target.

I'm sorry I won't get to see you over the summer, but I wish you good luck in the campaign and in your work for all the citizens of the Philippines. I hope to see you before long.

Sincerely,

Bill

RP officials to limit Singapore's tariff incentives package

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance wants to put up some limits to the incentives package the Philippine government is set to grant to Singapore to settle the two countries' dispute over petrochemical tariffs.

The DOF wants to make sure the incentives, which includes the elimination of tariffs on selected imports from Singapore, will not significantly harm the government's revenue-generating efforts.

The finance department has recommended that the zero tariffs on chosen Singapore products—including lubricating oil and polymers—be applied only for a certain number of years.

The government agency also wants the draft executive order eliminating tariffs on Singaporean products to include a provision that will state the number of years the zero tariffs shall be imposed.

"The compensation agreement should specify a specific time frame for the application of the zero tariffs to make sure it doesn't harm ... our revenues," said a finance official.

The official said initial estimates indicated that the elimination of tariffs on the selected Singaporean products would result in about P90 million in revenue losses for the government every year.

The Tariff and Related Matters committee earlier approved the draft executive order and has submitted the same to the National Economic and Development Board for final approval.

The draft executive order was drawn up by the Department of Trade and Industry, the agency directly dealing with Singapore to resolve the petrochemical tariffs row.

The dispute between the Philippines and Singapore stemmed from the failure of the former to reduce tariffs on petrochemical products to 5 percent as scheduled under the common effective preferential tariff scheme (CEPT) of the Asean Free Trade Agreement.

The CEPT-Afta states that tariffs on petrochemical products should be lowered to 5 percent beginning 2003. The Philippines, however, opted to set its petrochemical tariff rates last year at 7 to 10 percent to protect the local petrochemical industry.

Singapore then lodged a protest against the Philippines. Singapore demanded compensation, saying it would undertake retaliatory moves, such as raising tariffs on Philippine exports, if the Philippines would not come up with a settlement offer.

The two countries agreed that the compensation package for Singapore will involve the elimination of tariffs on selected Singaporean products. The products will either be those that are not locally produced in the Philippines or those that will not pose much of a threat to local products to avoid hurting local industries.

Building ties with consumers ...

From page B8

universal pastime; it encourages and rewards Filipino creativity and innovation in kite-making; it promotes friendly, sportsmanlike competition; and it fosters a sense of community."

Selling milk to children through kite flying held some potential.

"Consumption of milk in the Philippines is very low, averaging 19 liters per capita per annum, which translates into less than two glasses of milk per Filipino each week," said Acuña.

"Drinking milk regularly is a great way to obtain calcium and other nutrients which are important for the proper development of a child's body and brain, good bones and a strong immune system," he added.

Kids' fave

"The elementary flat kite category is the most popular part of the kitefest in terms of numbers, since most of the participants are children and flat kites are easier to design and make," Acuña said.

Some contestants in Baguio flew a simple *saranggola* made of plastic, but some would trip because they were made to wear the Bear Brand shorts, which were way too big.

But Tamayo said some kites in the adult category were impressive.

Tamayo recalled in recent stints in Cagayan de Oro City and Manila, where huge kites made to look like Spanish galleons "actually make them look like they are sailing in the air."

Other memorable kites were two-headed dogs with butterfly wings, *aswang*, Harry Potter, *kalesa* and airplanes. The most popular designs were dragonflies, butterflies, crows, birds, owls and dragons.

The BBKF is now held in 10 cities. There are plans to hold a contest pitting the best of the best in these areas but it would take a lot of money. Nestle decided, instead to hold the contest in more cities.

Acuña said there were also plans by their counterparts in other countries to adopt this contest.

DOC HUSSIN

peacemaker

for senator

" I am a proud Filipino Muslim from Sulu, Mindanao and I am committed to building a nation of Filipinos who will no longer differentiate themselves according to their religious beliefs or regional ethnic origins. I will lead all Filipino Muslims towards unity and work for their full and equal participation in Philippine development. I will strive to be a healer and peacemaker of a divided nation...."

- ARMM Governor Parouk "Doc" Hussin

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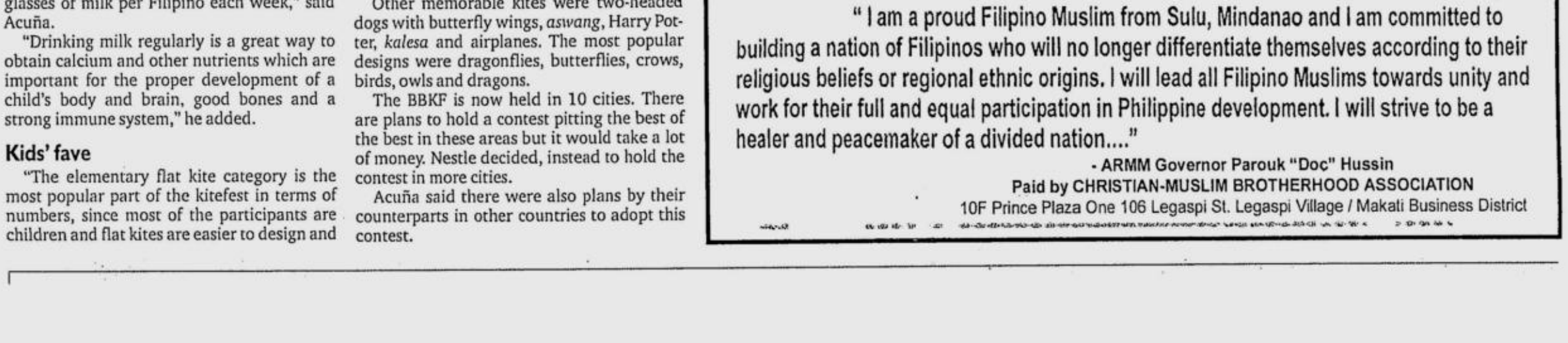

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and Mang Celso, Aling Maria at Baste
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ABC

Crude oil price edges up, seen to breach $40/barrel

TOKYO—NYMEX crude oil futures inched up yesterday, hovering near a 13-year high as the market expected the $40 resistance line to break due to fears that the Middle East security situation could cause supply disruptions, traders said.

US light crude oil for June delivery stood at $39.49 a barrel in after-hours ACCESS electronic trading. That was just eight cents below $39.57, the highest settlement struck on Wednesday for a prompt crude since $39.69 on Oct. 12, 1990, two months after Iraq invaded Kuwait in the crisis that led to the first Gulf War.

On Thursday's floor session in New York, the NYMEX June crude lost 20 cents to settle at $39.37 a barrel in technical selling.

"It has to test $40 later today," a Tokyo trader said yesterday. "It's just that security concerns, strong China demand and low US gasoline levels are happening altogether."

The trader put the immediate resistance line at $41.50 a barrel and support at $38.50.

Jitters that violence in the Middle East will disrupt supply, low US gasoline stocks and rampant demand growth in China have driven US crude prices toward the record $41.15 hit in October 1990.

NYMEX June gasoline was trading at $1.3180 a gallon, compared with Thursday's settlement of $1.3120. The contract earlier rose as high as the all-time peak of $1.3290.

US gasoline stocks were at 204 million barrels in the week to April 30, the Energy Information Administration said on Wednesday. The level was 3.3 percent lower than a year ago.

London's IPE Brent crude was bid-only at $36.50 a barrel. The contract settled at $36.53 on Thursday, losing 19 cents, after reaching a 13-year high of $37.20.

NYMEX June heating oil was at $1.0085 a gallon, up 0.4 percent. On Thursday, it settled at $1.0045 after touching $1.0180, the highest since Jan. 26.

In Tokyo, September crude oil futures on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange were at 22,690 yen per kiloliter, gaining 280 yen or 1.25 percent. *Reuters*

A JAPANESE man looks at a Tokyo brokerage's monitor screen showing Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda announcing his resignation. Fukuda, the Prime Minister's right-hand man, yesterday admitted that he failed to make mandatory payments into the troubled national pension system. Tokyo stocks fell Friday morning following Wall Street's fall. AP

Asian stocks fall; yen badly hit

SINGAPORE—Asian shares retreated to multi-week lows on Friday while the oil surge to 13-year highs stirred concerns over inflation.

The dollar yesterday firmed up on a growing belief that US interest rates will rise soon.

The yen was also hurt by the resignation of Yasuo Fukuda, one of the closest allies of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Japan's chief cabinet secretary yesterday admitted he had missed payments to the state pension plan.

Japanese stocks struck a six-week low and shares elsewhere in the region sank to a four-month trough after US jobless claims slid to their lowest level since October 2000.

"What we want to see is how much, what percentage, and when they (the Federal Reserve) will raise rates ... and the jobs data is expected to give us a hint," said Kenichi Azuma, equity strategist at Cosmo Securities.

Thursday's jobless data heightened expectations that a key employment report due today would strengthen the case for the Fed to raise its overnight funds rate in August or even June.

"Yesterday's strong jobless claims data has set off speculation that the payroll numbers will also come in higher than expected and support the dollar," said Toshiaki Kimura, chief manager of the forex division at Mitsubishi Trust and Banking.

Higher rates would make US bonds more attractive to overseas investors and lift the dollar.

Economists expect the payrolls report to show 173,000 jobs were created in April, according to a Reuters poll. But Kimura said the unexpectedly strong jobless claims had heightened expectations for a figure between 200,000 and 250,000, and anything lower could hurt the dollar.

Yesterday the dollar was around 110.44 yen, up from 109.80 yen in late New York trade. The euro was hovering at $1.2055, versus $1.2069 in late US trade and a four-week high of $1.2180 hit on Wednesday.

An MSCI index of shares elsewhere in the Asia Pacific was off 0.6 percent, after hitting its lowest point since the end of December earlier in the day.

The prospect of an end to the low cost of borrowing that has driven foreign buying of Japanese shares dragged down recent high-flyers, analysts said.

In Hong Kong, Chinese commodity shares fell on expectations the mainland's rampant economic growth and demand for raw materials would slow.

The Hang Seng Index was down two-thirds of a percent at midday, also undermined by worries about oil prices.

"The rising cost of oil will lead to higher operating costs for corporations and dampen consumer spending globally," said Alex Tang, research director at Core Pacific Yamaichi.

South Korea gained 0.1 percent. Heavy losses in shares of oil consumers such as Korean Air Line Co. and top refiner SK Corp. offset gains in top auto maker Hyundai Motor Co. as DaimlerChrysler AG's plans for selling its stake became clearer.

Taiwan gained 2.2 percent as investors decided a steep fall earlier in the week to 2004 lows had been overdone.

US Treasuries were steady in Asian trade, while Japanese government bonds firmed as shares fell. *Reuters*

Top Thai oil firm all set for $300-M IPO

BANGKOK—Thai Oil, Thailand's top refinery, said on Friday it had appointed JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch and ABN Amro Rothschild to advise on a $300 million initial public offering.

Thai Oil, 49.9 percent owned by Thailand's top energy firm PTT PCL, said the IPO was expected to be launched in the fourth quarter and the proceeds would be used to expand its refinery, petrochemical and power generation businesses.

Thai Oil said in a statement the first three companies would be financial advisers and lead underwriters for the IPO, while ABN Amro would be co-lead manager.

JP Morgan would team up with SCB Securities, a brokerage arm of Siam Commercial Bank, Merrill Lynch would tie up with Phatra Securities, while Morgan Stanley would hook up with Thailand's Finansa PCL and Bualuang Securities, the company said.

ABN would team up with Asia Asset and Quant Group.

Thai Oil ran into trouble during the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis as oil demand plunged and new capacity emerged.

But it has recovered strongly since then and is enjoying a strong uptick in long-stagnant refining profit margins.

At the midday break, PTT shares were unchanged at 142 baht ($3.57). The stock has dropped 23 percent so far this year, underperforming a 19-percent drop on the overall Thai stock market. *Reuters*

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Moody's: China may find it hard to swallow loan growth

HONG KONG—Moody's Investors Service says attempts by China's authorities to slow loans growth because of fears the economy is over-heating may produce mixed results.

The authorities may find it difficult to slow bank lending because of the huge deposit base in banks and structural factors favoring loan growth. There are also risks from a drastic slow down if growth is driven primarily by speculation.

As any slow down in loan growth may well cool the economy it could at the same time create asset quality problems at the banks, Moody's says in a new study, entitled, "China's Economic Slowdown and Credit Impact on its Banks."

Bank earnings could slow and NPLs rise, although different banks will fare differently.

"Bank lending has funded much of China's rapid economic expansion of the last few years," said Wei Yen, Moody's vice president, senior credit officer and the report's author. "FDI inflows and a propensity to save mean a continued build-up in deposits, leading to pressure on the banks to keep lending."

In 2003 alone, bank credits accounted for 85 percent of all funds raised, according to China's central bank.

The government has also used administrative measures to stem growth, "because loan pricing remains tightly controlled, and market mechanisms are not sufficiently developed to influence the supply and demand of credit," Yen said. "Strong administrative measures, though evocative of a planned economy, remain necessary at this stage to provide needed adjustments."

The banks have specifically increased lending to cyclical industries because rising commodity prices have stimulated loan demand from producers and fixed-asset investments.

Measures put in place by the regulators to slow loans growth include tighter guidelines for lending to the real estate sector and steps to remove liquidity from the system. *Reuters*

IMF exec expects deal with Argentina

MADRID—New International Monetary Fund chief Rodrigo Rato on Friday said he hoped for an agreement with Argentina and said economic conditions in Brazil had clearly improved.

"Argentina has a program with the fund, with a review every three months ... There is a review in June," Rato said in an interview with Spain's Intereconomia radio. "This review has a series of conditions ... I hope there will be an agreement."

Rato said the Brazilian government had indicated it would not seek future IMF programs in the current circumstances.

He said there had been an important change in Brazil's credibility in the international markets and conditions there were clearly better than when the government of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took power. *Reuters*

Arrests put a dent on Mitsubishi image

TOKYO—Japanese police arrested seven former Mitsubishi Motors executives on Thursday for mishandling a truck defect that killed a woman in what could shape up to be a repeat of a scandal at the auto maker just four years ago.

Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp., an unlisted truck maker owned 65 percent by DaimlerChrysler AG and 20 percent by Mitsubishi Motors Corp., admitted in March that a design defect in the wheel hub had been responsible for the accident, reversing earlier claims that improper maintenance was to blame. It issued a recall of 112,000 trucks in Japan.

The officials, among them former Fuso chair Takashi Usami, are suspected of professional negligence and falsifying reports about the hub problems, which caused more than 50 accidents since 1992.

The incident is expected to further damage Mitsubishi's brand image, already tainted by a similar scandal in 2000 when an insider's tip revealed it had been hiding customer complaints for over two decades.

Mitsubishi shares fell 4.6 percent after the seven former company executives were arrested. *Reuters*

MARAMING SALAMAT, PRESIDENT GLORIA!

Nagpapasalamat po kaming mga magsasaka ng Mindanao kay Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sa isinagawang programa para mapa-unlad and industriya ng mais, baboy, at palay. Ang Abot-kaya Feeds, Gloria Rice at HYCARE Program ay nagbigay sa amin ng pagkakataon upang tumaas ang aming kita at bumuti ang aming kabuhayan. Ang discount cards na ipinamahagi sa amin ng ating mahal na Pangulo ay nagpababa ng aming gastusin sa produksyon ng mais, palay at baboy. Maliban dito, ang hybrid seeds para sa palay at mais, ay nagpataas po ng aming ani.

Ngayon lang po kami nabigyan ng pagkakataong pumili ng sariling binhi at ng sariling feeds. Sa panahong ngayon na halos lahat ng gastusin sa pagsasaka ay nag-doble ang presyo, malaking tulong po ang aming natanggap na subsidy mula sa Department of Agriculture.

Pinasasalamatan din po namin si Sec. Cito Lorenzo at ang Office of Million Jobs, pati na rin ang Agriculture Training Institute. Sila po ang tumulong sa ating technicians upang personal na iabot ang discount cards sa aming mga magsasaka. Binaybay po nila ang bayan-bayan dito sa Mindanao para lamang ibigay ang discount cards sa tunay na beneficiaries na inilista ng mga technicians.

Maraming Salamat po!

KOALISYON NG MAGSASAKA SA MINDANAO (KMM)
(Selected Signatures)

REGION 11 ABADIES, Perla ABADILLA, Antonio ABADILLA, Arnold ABADILLA, Neneng ABASOLO, Fe ABAYATO, Renato ABE, Bayeng ABEAR, Susan ABELLA, Mary Ann ABELLA, Reth ABELLANA, Loriville ABELLANEDA, Belen ABELLANOSA, Feliciana ABELLANOSA, Luz ABENDAN, Rolanda ABERGAS, Virgie ABERGOSADO, Bernardo ABLIGADO, Salornino ABO, Teresita ABONG, Henry ABORETA, Joel ABRATES, Tony ABREGANA, Bibeth ACACIO, Ma. Teresa ACAIN, Edwin ACANA, Sarneto ACANAY, Sornito ADALAWON, Helen ADANG, Dulcisima ADDY, Romelio ADELINA, Limbaga HIZON, JC ADOLFO, Erwin AGAD, Otelia AGBU, Rosenda AGUANA, Marcelo AGUILLAR, Maritess AGUILOR, Arlene AGUNOD, Rico AGUPRA, Leliosa AGWANTA, Mario ALAGOS, Edinda Nelio ALCAREZ, Roldan ALCAREZ, Vergenia ALCOMENDRAS, Crispin ALCOSABA, Erwien ALDEPOLLA, Ruperto ALDEVERA, Caridad ALE, Edwin ALEGRIA, Slyvia ALEJAGA, Lito ALEMIO, Armando ALERAS, Manuel ALESNA, Rosita ALFARO, Ely ALFECHE, Alejandro ALFEREZ, Ardiana ALFEREZ, Digna ALFORQUE, Jennifer ALFORTE, Monena ALGABRE, Anito ALICE, Miguel ALICO, Norma ALIPOGO, Ambrosio ALIVIO, Reynaldo ALLION, Melvin ALLOSO, Emilia ALMENDRAS, Rose ALMERANTE, Carmela ALOLOR, Alda ALVAREZ, Merlita ALVIN, Gaslos ALVIZ, Arcina AMADOR, Narding AMAN, Sofia AMANTE, Lolita AMASOLA, Imedia AMBUAT, Dominador AMISTA, Rosalinda AMIT, Leonarda AMON, Fernando AMON, Gabriel Jr AMORA, Fredezminda AMORA, Julito AMOY, Teodora ANABEZA, Socrates ANANEZ, Jonie ANDAL, Adrese ANDO, Pepe ANDOY, Leonardo ANECOCHE, Anecita ANGUILINA, Paalan ANGUIT, Lea ANLAO, Lolita ANNGA, Elias ANSAGOD, Ramon ANTALAN, Jack ANTIGA, Raul ANTOLIN, Berla ANUB, Pedro APAG, Alexandrea APOSACAS, Cesar APURA, Roberta AQUINO, Diokno AQUIO, Maritess ARAGON, Borja ARANA, Godofredo ARANETA, Sergio ARCEBIDO, Porferio ARCEJO, Leurdes ARCENIO, Patricia AREJA, Jessie ARNAN, Boy ARRANGUEZ, Nida ARSENIO, Romeo ASEJO, Linda ASELOM, Sozimo ASTILLA, Allan ASWAL, Sonia ATAY, Monto ATIS, Merla ATONDO, Aurea AUDRESA, Tulor AUDRY, Plarish AULANDA, Ombra AURIT, Elias AYON, Onan AZURA, Monica BABAD, Cesar BABAO, Rogelio BABELONIA, Eduardo BACAG, Dante BACALSO, Bonifacio BACALSO, Luz BACARINAS, Ernie BACLAAN, Dalive BACOLOD, Pidro BACTAT, Resurreccion BACURNAY, Linda BACUS, Ernestobadar, Pedrita BADAYOS, Leny BAER, Lilia BAGNOTAN, Victor BAGOTLO, Susima BAGUILOD, Amalia BAHAYA, Reynaldo BAJENTING, Bienvenido BALA, Lorna BALABA, Vergenia BALANGIAO, Catherine BALANSAG, Jerry BALANSAG, Mabel BALANTE, Norminda BALAQUE, Espirita BALBUENA, Ceriaca BALBUENA, Dontingo BALDOMAN, Dory BALDOS, Marteliano BALICO, Erlinda BALINO, Lydia

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

URGENT PUBLIC ADVISORY

Public and private school teachers and other members of the Board of Election Inspectors who **are registered in the cities or municipalities where they are stationed** may vote for candidates in the **local and national levels.**

On the other hand, public and private school teachers and other members of the BEI who are **registered in cities or municipalities other than their places of assignment** may vote for candidates for **national positions only**. In this case, they shall be considered as **local absentee voters** like members of the police and the military.

Given this 6th Day of May, 2004, Intramuros, Manila.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

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Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
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FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILIANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – May 8, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Division of Zamboanga del Sur
J. Alano St., Pagadian City
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Re-Bid
(2nd wave 2003)

To All Qualified Bidders: May 09, 2004

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the following projects and its location to wit:

PACKAGE NO.	PROJECT LOCATION	SCHOOL	TYPE OF WORK		PCAB Category	Date of Opening of Bids
ZDS-NCB-07-2-012B	DUMINGAG IB, Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur	1. Libertad ES 2. Dulop ES 3. Calumangi ES		RR-3CL RR-3CL RR-3CL	Small "B"-ARC	June 09, 2004; 10.00 A.M.
ZDS-NCB-07-1-011A	DUMINGAG 1A Zamboanga del Sur	1. Lower Timonan ES 2. Bucayan ES 3. Dumingag 1 CES	NC-1CL NC-1CL	 RR-3CL	Small "B"-ARC	June 09, 2004; 10.00 A.M.
ZDS-NCB-28-3-022A	TAMBULIG A, Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur	1. Apalo ES 2. Balugo ES 3. Alang-Alang ES		RR-2U-3CL RR-2CL RR-2CL	Small "B"-ARC	June 09, 2004; 10:00 A.M.
ZDS-NCB-28-4-023B	TAMBULIG B, Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur	1. Fabian ES 2. Tambulig CES 3. Sumalig ES		RR-3CL RR-3CL RR-3CL	Small "B" ARC	June 09, 2004; 10:00 A.M.
ZDS-NCB-14-2-029B	LAKEWOOD B, Lakewood, Zamboanga del Sur	1. Lakewood CES 2. Gatub ES 3. Tubod ES		RR-2U-3CL RR-3CL RR-3CL	Small "B" ARC	June 09, 2004; 2:00 P.M.
ZDS-NCB-10-1-014A	JOSEFINA A, Josefina, Zamboanga del Sur	1. Sebucang ES 2. Josefina CES 3. Litapan ES	NC-2CL	 RR-3CL RR-2CL	Small "B"-ARC	June 09, 2004; 2:00 P.M.
ZDS-NCB-18-2-032A	MARGOSATUBIG A, Margosatubig, Zambo. Sur	1. Limamawan ES 2. Lumbog ES	NC-2CL	RR-3CL RR-2CL	Small "B"-ARC	June 09, 2004; 2:00 P.M.
ZDS-NCB-32-2-036B	V. SAGUN B.V. Sagun, Zambo. del Sur	1. Linugwayan ES 2. Waling-waling ES 3. Lunib ES		RR-4CL RR-2CL RR-3CL	Small "B"-ARC	June 09, 2004; 2:00 P.M.
ZDS-NCB-32-1-036A	V. SAGUN A.V. Sagun, Zambo. del Sur	1. Maculay ES 2. Maraya ES 3. Lumbal ES	NC-1CL	 RR-3CL RR-2CL	Small "B"-ARC	June 09, 2004; 2:00 P.M.

Notes: NC-new construction; R/R- Repair/Rehabilitation; CL-Classrooms

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur with office address at J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City for a nonrefundable fee of PhP 2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur, J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City on or before above stated time and dates, at which they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. For clarification, a Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on May 19, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at the office of the Schools Division Superintendent, Division of Zamboanga del Sur, J. Alano St., Pagadian City.

(Sgd.) **VISMINDA G. SERRATO**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--May 8, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Division of Zamboanga del Sur
J. Alano St., Pagadian City
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids
(2nd Quarter 2004)

May 09, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the following projects and its location to wit:

PACKAGE NO.	PROJECT LOCATION	SCHOOL	TYPE OF WORK		PCAB Category	Date of Opening of Bids
ZDS-NCB-01/02-09/12-042	AURORA EAST & WEST DISTRICTS, AURORA Zamboanga del Sur	1. ACAD ES 2. AURORA RPS 3. TAGOLALO ES		RR-2 CL RR-3 CL RR-3 CL	Small "B"	June 10, 2004, 10.00 A.M.
ZDS-NCB-23-2-043	RAMON MAGSAYSAY, Zamboanga del Sur	1. KATIPUNAN ES 2. EASTERN BOBONGAN ES	NC-1 CL	RR-3 CL	Small "B"	June 10, 2004; 10 00 A.M
ZDS-NCB-24-04-044	SAN MIGUEL, Zamboanga del Sur	1. LIBUGANAN ES 2. BETINAN ES	NC-1 CL	RR-3 CL	Small "B"	June 10, 2004; 10 00 A.M
ZDS-NCB-31-04-045	TUKURAN WEST DISTRICT, TUKURAN, Zamboanga del Sur	1. PANDUMA ES 2. DATU AMPANAS ES 3. JOSE SUICO ES		RR-3 CL RR-2 CL RR-3 CL	Small "B"	June 10, 2004; 2.00 P.M.
ZDS-NCB-30-04 046	TUKURAN EAST DISTRICT, TUKURAN, Zamboanga del Sur	1. MANLAYAG ES 2. BACKLAY ES	NC-1 CL	RR-3 CL	Small "B"	June 10, 2004; 2.00 P.M.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur with office address at J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City for a nonrefundable fee of Php2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur, J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City on or before above stated time and dates, at which they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. For clarification, a Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on May 19, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at the office of the Schools Division Superintendent, Division of Zamboanga del Sur, J. Alano St., Pagadian City.

(Sgd.) **VISMINDA G. SERRATO**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–May 8, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Commission on Elections
Manila

NOTICE

Pursuant to Comelec Resolution No. 6792, promulgated on May 6, 2004, notice is hereby given to all political parties, sectoral groups, organizations, or coalitions thereof, participating in the party-list system that the different provincial, city and municipal board of canvassers shall convene at 6:00 p.m. on May 10, 2004 at the respective Sangguniang Panlalawigan Hall, Sangguniang Panlungsod Hall and Sangguniang Bayan Hall of each province, city or municipality, or such other places as may be designated by the Commission to canvass the votes cast in connection with the May 10, 2004 Synchronized National and Local Elections.

May 7, 2004

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

(PDI–May 8, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

PUBLIC ADVISORY

As previously announced by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), there are two thousand six hundred (2,600) ballots discovered to be missing from the National Printing Office (NPO), EDSA, Quezon City. These ballots are for use for the May 10, 2004 National and Local Elections and were allocated for the following cities more particularly described hereunder, *viz:*

Place	Serial Number	Quantity
1st District, Pasay City	0142001-0142100	100 ballots (1 pad)
2nd District, Pasay City	0120101-0120200	100 ballots (1 pad)
Marawi City	0016101-0016200	100 ballots (1 pad)
2nd District, Makati City	0036001-0037000 0026101-0026200 0026101-0026300 0106101-0106200	1,300 ballots (13 pads)
1st District, Pasig City	00003001-0004000	1,000 ballots (10 pads)

The COMELEC immediately took the necessary action and proper safeguards to implement stricter measures to obviate occurrence of similar incident.

The ballots afore-described and hereby considered **INVALID**.

In view of the foregoing, the Election Officers, Municipal/City Treasurers, the members of the Board of the Elections Inspectors (BEI) concerned and other interested parties are heretofore **ADVISED** and **DIRECTED** to immediately report to the COMELEC the receipt and/or discovery of the said ballots and confiscate the same. The Municipal/City Treasurers are also DIRECTED NOT to ISSUE the afore-described ballots to the BEIs and to take custody of the name for submission to the **COMELEC**. Finally, in the event these ballots are inadvertently issued, the BEIs are DIRECTED NOT to USE any of the ballots.

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

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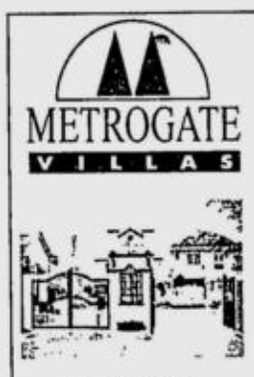

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MRMI Marketing Office
Ground floor, Moldex Building
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HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

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LAGUNA

3Storey w/Roof Commercial Bldg. 161sqm • 778-1541

COMM'L/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

Kamias 6.7M Neg 45-3731

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

H&L Alabang Hills Village Munt. LA 450 FA 550 Rush 8079084/0917-8447670

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN CAL CITY LA 240m² FA 104m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic / Gle 8903461 loc 27

MAKATI

Nice 2-storey 4BR w/T&B San Miguel Village, Makati BEST BUY! DBO •896-3927•

MANILA

SN ANDRES MANILA
Bnew/Twnhse/3sty/3br/3tb/grge P3.375M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.7M 9487112

PARANAQUE

H&L Bung BLS Annex 1618 3.8M Accepts Terms 8236212

Verdant T-house Hse & Lot No DP 20T/mo 0927 2805153

QUEZON CITY

GOODWILL HOMES 12Sty LA 120m² FA 156.10m² 4BR 2T&B P1M Vic 8903461 loc 27

P466T/Unit Sunny Villas Condo nr Cmnwealth 30/60M² P4750/mo 8179650/09192302120

Proj.8 2Story S.Pool 1028sqm Victoria • 778-1541

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LAGUNA

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LOS BANOS Hse & Lot 414sqm PANSOL 3M 0917-3380468

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2Bdrms 1T&B FA 61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA 78m² P1.9M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

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MAKATI

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MKT NR AYALA
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PASIG

Ortigas 1br 85sqm 520-0075

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO 1.5M No Int. 9132224

Rush! Olympic Hts 4M 77m² 4br 3tb 0917-5303632 Eastwood

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P 3.3M Only
4-BR 4-T&B 2-CAR GRGE
T-439-1995; 426-0531
911-7498

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

Apt Proj.8 4&7drs U/D 778-1541

LOT

ALABANG

Alabang 500sqm 520-0075

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

MANDALUYONG

Dreamland 124m² Cor. Lot 2.25M DBO • 0918-9343046

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

162m² Teachers Village near Claret Sch 9219155 Jimmy

ACROPOLIS CORNER LOT Southeast 514sqm P17.2M Also 300m² • T-6337601-03

CUBAO CONDO along Edsa P1.5M up few units left 4391651 / (0917)9604278

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VILLA ESPANA LA 109.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RIZAL

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VILLA LIGAYA LA 149m² & 134m² P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL LA 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA 120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

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COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75, 50 m² 9289541 7313035

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

MANILA

TONDO Store+2BR 1TB Apts. P9T 2333548/0920-2276509

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HOUSE

ALABANG

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KALOOCAN

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MAKATI

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QUEZON CITY

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APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

EDSA CALOOCAN 3FLRS COML W/BODEGA 3612663 3610652

MAKATI

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APARTMENT

MANDALUYONG

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PASIG

P8,000 screend quiet 2stry 1-3 only w/o kids 6354244 4 Sn Clemente Kapitolyo

STUDIO TYPE NR EVER GOTESCO MALL ORTIGAS CALL 681-3461

QUEZON CITY

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CUBAO P3.8 STD LADY 9124428

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BF PQUE 8275345 / 8255724

Ldys Dorm 4613382 8103473

Mla nr Chinese Gen 7118679

Proj3 lady 3T studio 9137513

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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CARS FOR RENT

CAR VANS 410-0495

•CARS L3 09262210394•

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★Vans Coaster Bus 422-92-96

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

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1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

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NOTICE

The **Magic Line Corporation** change it's business address from Bulilan Norte, Pila, Laguna to Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Twinning Road Ext. Clark Special Economic Zone, Clarkfield, Pampanga
(PDI – May 8, 2004)

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Makati Ave., Makati City
Kamagong Room, 4th Floor.
Saturday, May 8, 2004 & Sunday May 9, 2004
3 sessions – 2 pm, 5 pm & 8 pm
Tuesday, May 11, 2004 – 6 pm & 8 pm
Special invitation to MLM professionals. Please identify yourself at registration.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

BJMPMBAI
Membership Meeting
BJMP Building
No. 144 Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City
8:30 a.m., Sat., July 10, 2004

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preferably SINGLE
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Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

In Loving Memory
on the 10th Death Anniversary of

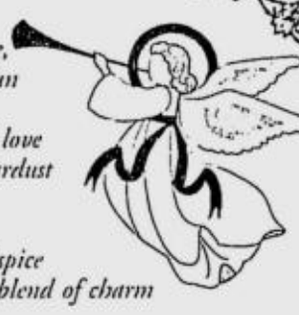
ISAIAS P. DIMAYA

who joined his Creator on May 8, 1994

His family requests relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and to remember him always in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory at the following churches:

Mt. Carmel Church Laoag City	May 8, 6:30 AM
Lourdes Church Quezon City	May 8, 6:30 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish Church 7211 West Talcott Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60621	May 8, 6:30 AM
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Scott Road, Burbank, California	May 8, 6:45 AM
Sto. Domingo Parish Church Quezon Ave., Quezon City	May 8, 8:00 AM



Isa was an angel sent in disguise,
She was a magical creature of fun and surprise
A bundle of mischief filled with love
She was always blessed with stardust from heaven above

She was sweetness with a bit of spice
Fright from the very start—a blend of charm and delight
That captures every heart

She filled the hours with laughter
She filled our lives with sweet noise
She filled our hearts with pride,
And the years with many joys

But now her work is done
God has called his precious angel home
So goodnight our dear Isa
Thank you for touching our lives
Sweet dreams

ISABEL FRANCESCA PAZ M. ROXAS

Peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 7.

Her loving mother PAULA, father JOHNNY and sister CLARA along with the loving people she has touched, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mary Help of Christians Church, Bgy. Don Bosco, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 8, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, right after the 9 am mass at the Mary Help of Christians Parish Church.

Our Dearly Beloved

"Papa Nito"

JUANITO LORIA UNGCO, Sr.

Chairman of the Board
PORT JERSEY SHIPPING INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Peacefully joined our Lord
at 5:30 p.m., May 5, 2004 at the age of 79.

He is survived by his children and children-in-law: **Sonny** & **Nini Ungco**, **Monet** & **Gail Ungco**, **Cecilia Scheuerman DMD**, **Chuchi** & **Rebbie Ungco**, **Butch** & **Wilhelmina Ungco** and **Waylan** & **Rosemarie Zamboanga MD.**

His grandchildren are: **Anne**, **Joseph**, **Billy**, **MJ**, **Christopher**, **Nicollete**, **Walter**, **Alexis**, **David**, **Camille**, **Amanda**, **JP**, and **Princess**.

His surviving brothers are **Teodoro**, **Pio** & **Conrado**.

His body lies in state at the ***"Felicidad Room,"*** Arlington Memorial Chapel, along G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Final viewing and Funeral Holy Mass will be on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 at 9:00 to 12:00 noon.

The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. Thank You.

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, may he rest in peace. Amen."

JAMES L. CHIONGBIAN

Due to the request of the constituents of Sarangani Province, the remains of the late JAMES L. CHIONGBIAN will be brought to Sarangani on Saturday, May 8 and will be flown back to Manila on Sunday, May 9 for interment directly at Everest Hills Memorial Park where the necrological/ecumenical services will be held at 2:00 p.m.

Those who want to attend the burial can go directly to the Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City.

The Board of Trustees, Officers and Staff of the
Philippine Lighting Industry Association, Inc. (PLIA)
condole with the family of

DOUGLAS LEON KUFFEL

Founding President, PLIA

who peacefully found rest in God on 6 May 2004.

PLIA joins his wife **Joy** and their children **Kaye**, **Elgene**, **Niki** and **Deedee** in prayer that the Shepherd may lead **Doug** to the eternal springs of living water.

His remains lie in state at the Alcala Chapel, 2nd floor, Loyola Memorial Park, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 11 May 2004, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the same chapel.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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"In Christ all shall be made alive..."
Corinthians 15:22

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CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO BID
on the following:

1. **Lease of Trellis Area No. 2, thru public bidding, located along the ASEAN Promenade fronting Manila Bay with total area of 292.26 square meters. Minimum bid for the rental shall not be less than P190.00/sq/meter**
2. **Lease of the CCP Parking Areas thru public bidding.**

Please send a letter of intent to bid, addressed to Mr. Ed Duque, CCP BAC Secretariat, Office of the President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Tel Nos. 832-3680 or Fax No. 832-3683. Deadline for submission of letter of intent is on Tuesday, **May 25, 2004, 5:00 p.m.**

The CCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof without offering any reason, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government, and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the CCP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating in the undertaking, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) SID HILDAWA
Chairman, CCPBAC

(PDI--May 7 & 8, 2004)

Send your resumé instantly. JOB Market www.jobmarketonline.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be informed that the following names of our employees listed below are no longer connected with **MORVILLA SECURITY AGENCY, MSA SBMA** Branch effective this date.

MARCELO C. FERRER	-	**Branch Manager**
FRANCISCO M. SISON III	-	**Area Supervisor**
ALLAN G. MONTEALEGRE	-	**Area Supervisor**

Any business transactions entered into by and between the above named employees in whatever form after this notice shall not be honored by the company whatsoever.

By MSA Management

(PDI--May 8, 2004)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications from qualified Philippine private voluntary organizations, non-governmental organizations, not-for-profit organizations and academic institutions or organizations to implement an institutional grant development program to support USAID/Philippines Strategic Objective 2 (SO2): Governance of Economic and legal systems improved through a program entitled Targeted Intervention in Economic Reform and Governance (TIERG) Project. **For-profit Philippine organizations may also submit applications, however, they will not be entitled to receive a fee or profit for this activity.** USAID reserves the right to award more than one application if it is determined to be in USAID's interest to do so.

For the full description of the program and details on how and where to submit the applications, please visit USAID/Philippines website at http://www:usaid-ph.gov or call the Office of Regional Procurement, USAID/Philippines at 552-9800 extensions 9923 or 9924.

(PDI-May 8, 9, 15 & 16, 2004)

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Our Dearly Beloved

DR. ROGELIO "TOTI" GANDIONCO y INOCENCIO

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 7, 2004 at the age of 63.

His loving wife **WILHELMINA**; children **ROWENA, BERNADETTE** and **ROGER, BENJAMIN**; sisters **TERESITA, SONYA** and **ERLINDA** & other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-B), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at Funeraria Paz Crematorium, Quezon City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."

– John 3:16

ISABEL FRANCESCA PAZ M. ROXAS

Peacefully joined our Creator at the age of seven.

Her loving mother **PAULA**; father **JOHNNY**; sister **CLARA** and all the loving people she touched request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mary Help of Christians Church, Brgy. Don Bosco, Parañaque.

Interment is set today at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque, following a Mass in the church at 9 a.m.

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

MotoPinoy-friendly phones

IN ITS bid to satisfy the Pinoy's unfilled craze over cellular phones, Motorola Philippines - the leading provider of wireless communications, semiconductor technology, advanced electronic equipment and services - recently launched the MotoPinoy movement.

The MotoPinoy movement intends to promote strong partnerships and alliances with the Filipinos by offering them a new line of mobile phones especially designed to fit their lifestyle and budget.

"We believe that the Pinoys have a special fondness for cellular phones more than any other people thus the new line of mobile units," explained Scott Durchslag Motorola's corporate vice president and general manager for Southeast Asia during his recent visit to the Philippines.

Highlighting the MotoPinoy movement, are the MotoPinoy phones.

To ensure that the campaign is rightly focused on specific target market, Motorola has classified its MotoPinoy phones into "MotoZones". The zones include MotoTech which caters to mobile professionals, MotoChic for the fashionable females, MotoMedia for teens and MotoLife for every Pinoy mobile phone user.

"Motorola values its Filipino clients and we are concerned about their needs. That is why Motorola has launched mobile phones that will surely fit the Filipino way of life," added Arlene Amarante country manager for Personal Communications Sector (PCS) Philippines

For the Mototech zone, Motorola introduces model Mpx200 a virtual "remote control" for the web-centric, work-centric, always on the go mobile professional .

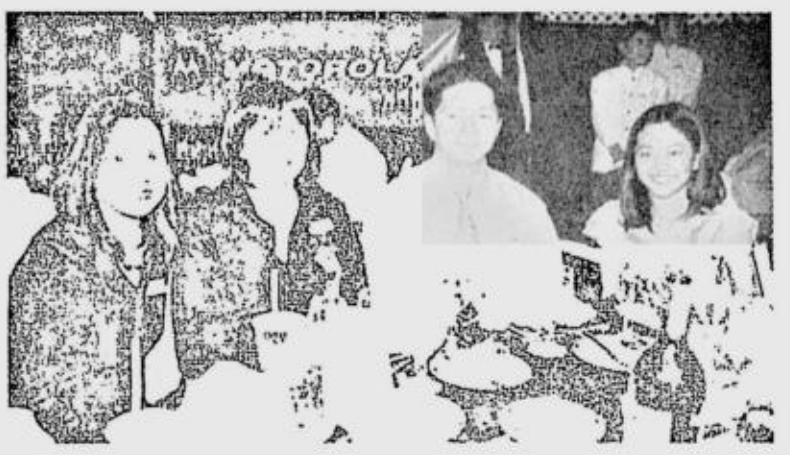
For the Motochic zone, Motorola has the following: Model V878 with camera, the smallest, lightest, sleekest clamshell with Photo ID, multimedia and digital mirror; Model V690 is called the designer phone with no antenna, has an Integrated VGA digital camera with super bright LED and video clip playback and record; Model V600 with built in integrated digital camera (VGA), large active colour display (176 x 220, 65.536 colours TFT), large memory, a 22 Khz polyphonic speaker w/ 24 Chord support and quadband technology; Model V300 with integrated video camera, photo-Moto gaming phone with the soft-feel of a well-worn pebble; and the Model V303 also a photo-Moto gaming phone with a metallic, functional look, integrated camera and a large active color display.

Included in the Motolife zone are: Motorola model C650, the affordable fun phone that has larger, rich color graphics display, integrated camera and polyphonic speaker supporting MP3 sound; Motorola model C550 is the first camera phone that is always ready to play and share in fashionable style; Motorola model C201 boasts of three embedded games with vibration effect, monophonic speaker with 27 ringtones and fun messaging with iTAP predictive texting; and Motorola model C200 with built in games that comes with vibration effect, monophonic speaker with 27 ringtones and fun messaging with iTAP predictive texting.

From the Motomedia zone comes Motorola model E398 which will rock your senses with 3D sound, MP3 and WAV ringers, bass beat for your music and sensory responses during your gaming, fun lights that flash to the beat of the music or game sounds plus a camera for capturing special moments.

Present during the launch were guests from the IT industry, telecommunications sector, dealers and media friends.

ARLENE Amarante (4th from left) country manager for PCS Philippines and Joju Quejada (5th from left) Motorola Philippines president, pose with Motorola dealers.



ENJOYING dinner are guests from the IT industry and media friends from Inquirer Publications Inc.

CDO-FOODSPHERE 2004 SALES CONFAB IN CORON

Some 98 executives of CDO-Foodsphere Inc attended the company's sales and marketing convention held May 1 to 3 at the Dive Link Resort in Coron, Palawan. The company launched its key programs before its sales and marketing people to boost its market position in the processed meat industry. Coron is a beautiful place blessed with a variety of scenic spots and natural wonders such as shipwrecks, powdery white beaches, clear water lagoons and walls of limestone cliffs.

Reedley School calls for Hope

REEDLEY International School captured the human drama, the humor, the lighter side and everything there is in the campaign trail in a hilarious variety show titled "Reedley Television (RTV) De Avance 2004" held recently at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

According to Reedley School chair Ferdinand Ong, the variety show aims to hone the innate talents of the students and at the same time call for an honest, orderly and peaceful elections (Hope).

The show captured the election fever as interpreted by elementary and high school students with pint size versions of presidentiables Raul Roco, Fernando Poe Jr., Sen. Ping Lacson and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo engaged in a battle of wit and political savvy on how they will run the affairs of the state.

And if they could only have their way, the forthcoming political exercise will be a comic relief to the harried Filipinos, rid of violence, mudslinging and character assassination.

The show also featured the latest dance craze, skits, spoofs of TV ads and movie trailers, poems, acoustic songs, declamation pieces and a host of surprise numbers.

The Pasig City-based school is the first and only international school in the country to integrate the best of Singaporean, American and Filipino elementary and high school curricula. The RTV is an annual event of the school to help the students' skills in public performance, organizing and production.

With a night of nice, clean fun and political satire, the school is replete not only with Starstruck materials, but potential leaders who are able to offer themselves as alternatives to traditional politicians.

Salamat President Gloria

Construction entails a multitude of detailed operations and involves a great number of people in day-to-day activities. As such, operational disputes are normal occurrences that tend to delay project completion --- delays that are costly and have proven detrimental to our national economic development.

Your singular bold act of signing into law Republic Act No. 9285, otherwise known as the ADR Act of 2004, last 02 April 2004, institutionalizes the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) System in the country and provides the construction industry a fair, equitable and speedy justice system leading to our vision of a level playing field.

Madame President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in behalf of the more than 300,000 Architectural & Engineering Professionals; 6,800 Construction Constructors; the 1.7 million Construction Workforce and the members of our families, *ang taos pusong pasasalamat namin sa iyong nagawa para sa aming kapakanan at kinabukasan ay hindi makalilimutan. Makaaasa ka sa amin.*

ENGR. EMILIO T. TUMBOCON
President
Philippine Constructors Association, Inc.

ENGR. SALVADOR P. CASTRO, JR.
President
Council of Engineering Consultants of the Philippines

ENGR. PETER AVENTAJADO
President
Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers

MRS. ELVIRA C. ABLAZA
President
Confederation of Filipino Consulting Organizations, Inc.

ENGR. RAMON F. ALLADO
President
Southern Philippines Construction Core Group

ENGR. GREGORIO Y. GUEVARRA
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Society of Philippine Electrical Contractors & Suppliers

ENGR. RODOLFO N. FERRER
President
Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers

ATTY. MANUEL M. SERRANO
Chairman of the Board
Chamber of Real Estate & Builders Association

ENGR. CEZAR PUNSALAN
President
Philippine Society of Ventilating, Airconditioning & Refrigerating Engineers

ENGR. FERNANDO C. CALA
Executive Vice President
Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers

ARCH. LILY PIO RODA
President
Construction Project Management Association of the Philippines

ARCH. ROBERT SAC, FUAP
President
United Architects of the Phils.

MR. ELISEO I. EVANGELISTA II
President
Philippine Institute of Construction Arbitrators, Inc.

ADVT

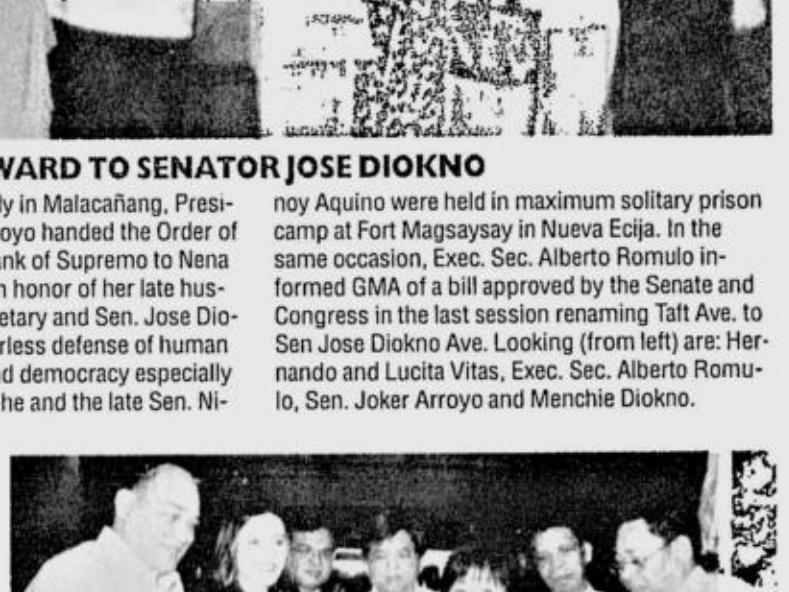
POSTHUMOUS AWARD TO SENATOR JOSE DIOKNO

In a ceremony held recently in Malacañang, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo handed the Order of Lakandula Award with a rank of Supremo to Nena Icasiano Vda. De Diokno in honor of her late husband, former Justice Secretary and Sen. Jose Diokno, for his heroic and fearless defense of human rights, justice, freedom and democracy especially during Martial Law where he and the late Sen. Ninoy Aquino were held in maximum solitary prison camp at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. In the same occasion, Exec. Sec. Alberto Romulo informed GMA of a bill approved by the Senate and Congress in the last session renaming Taft Ave. to Sen Jose Diokno Ave. Looking (from left) are: Hernando and Lucita Vitas, Exec. Sec. Alberto Romulo, Sen. Joker Arroyo and Menchie Diokno.

DBP EXHIBIT FEATURES 'MUEBLES ATBP'

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) is holding a month-long showcase of handcrafted furniture and home accessories by one of its successful borrowers, L.E. Gonzales Enterprises, which are on display until May 14 at the Bank's Ugnayan Hall of its head office in Makati City. The exhibit is open to the public for free from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Shown during the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon last April 14 are (from left): DBP chair Vitaliano Nañagas II; Vicor recording artist Marielle; and L.E. Gonzales Enterprises proprietors Lynn and Eriberto Gonzales. Also in photo are SVP Marietto Enecio and senior AVP Rodolfo de Leon of DBP, and Director Arnaldo del Rosario of the Department of Trade and Industry.

PNB INITIATES FUND-RAISING FOR NAMFREL



The Philippine National Bank (PNB) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) allowing the bank to initiate a fund-raising campaign dubbed as 'Sampung Piso Para sa Sagradong Boto'. The 20-day fund drive will support Namfrel's operations in the elections. Shown at the symbolic turnover of PNB's P100,000 donation at the PNB Financial Center are (from left): president Lorenzo Tan; PNB EVP Ismael Sandig; Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion Jr and Namfrel vice chair Edward Go

AN OPEN LETTER

TO : OUR FELLOW RETIREES FROM THE UNIFORMED SERVICES

In these times when many of our countrymen are increasingly concerned about the emerging role of retirees from the uniformed services, it behooves us to reassure the entire nation of our adherence to time-honored principles and norms of conduct befitting our status. Certain issues have been raised particularly regarding the words and deeds of some of us who seek to exercise their fundamental rights and pursue goals in life as private citizens. Of course there is nothing wrong with that.

However, to put things in their proper perspective, it is felt that such endeavors, especially in the field of politics, be undertaken with utmost circumspection. We therefore brought upon ourselves, a group of retired officers, the task to affirm our continuing sense of service to our country and people by simply making an intelligent choice- the adoption of a credo to guide our decorum as responsible citizens of our beloved Philippines. Indeed, we embrace the credo with the thought that it shall essentially "clear the air" and likewise send a message to the nation that the vast majority of retired uniformed service personnel, officer and enlisted alike, remain committed to the peace, stability and security of the national community.

In this regard, we take this occasion to urge you to join us in this effort to assuage any apprehension of our people, misplaced or otherwise, over the perceived motives of some, especially in the political life of the nation. Ours is an advocacy for the preservation of our democratic way of life and the institutions thereof. Accordingly, we wish to bind ourselves behind the hereunder Credo to underscore our basic sentiments.

CREDO

- **KEEP** FAITH IN THE CONSTITUTION, THE RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE;
- **CONTINUE** UPHOLDING THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND THEIR CORE VALUES;
- **EXERCISE** OUR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AS CITIZENS WITH CIRCUMSPECTION, SOBRIETY AND HUMILITY BEFITTING THE NOBLE PROFESSIONS OF ARMS;
- **SUPPORT** THE INHERENT NON-POLITICAL AND NON-PARTISAN MANDATE OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES;
- **DEVOTE** CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS TOWARD REFORMS IN SUBJECT INSTITUTIONS;
- **PURSUE** PRODUCTIVE GOALS THAT CAN LIKEWISE CONTRIBUTE TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THE NATION'S ASPIRATIONS;
- **LEAD** A LIFE OF SIMPLICITY IN THE COMFORT OF GOD'S LOVE AND ABIDING AFFECTION OF OUR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES;
- **ENDEAVOR** TO KEEP OURSELVES PHYSICALLY FIT, MENTALLY SOUND, MORALLY AND SPIRITUALLY UPRIGHT.

THUS ADOPTED, WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES HERE:

SIGNED BY:

GEN DIONISIO R SANTIAGO AFP (Ret)
Former Chief of Staff, AFP

VADM LUISITO F FERNANDEZ AFP (Ret)
Former Flag Officer in Command, Phil. Navy

RADM PASTOR R RAMOS JR AFP (Ret)
Former Vice Commander, Philippine Navy

RADM DOMINGO T ESTERA PCG (Ret)
Former Deputy Commandant, Phil. Coast Guard

COMMO VICENTE R BUENAVENTURA AFP (Ret)
Former DND Undersecretary

BGEN EUSEBIO R RAMOS AFP (Ret)
Former Brigade Commander, 802 Inf BdE PA

COMMO JAIME V BANTOLO AFP (Ret)
Former Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, PN

BGEN FEDERICO E RUIZ JR AFP (Ret)
Former Commander, Southern Luzon Command, AFP

COL WILFREDEO DELA CRUZ PAF (Ret)
Former Provost Marshall, Villamor Air Base, PAF

LT CESAR CASTILLO PAF (Ret)
Former AFP Sgt. Major

VADM ARMANDO Q MADAMBA AFP (Ret)
Former The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP

VADM ELICEO E FAJARDO PCG (Ret)
Former Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard

RADM EDGARDO M ISRAEL AFP (Ret)
Former Commander, AFP
Civil Relation Service

BGEN GUILLERMO A PECACHE AFP (Ret)
Former Deputy Chief of Staff for Home Defense, AFP

COMMO PABLO P PEREZ AFP (Ret)
Former The Chief of Engineers, AFP

COMMO VICTOR L SUAREZ AFP (Ret)
Former Commander, Naval Reserve Command, PN

COMMO DANIEL T DELGADO AFP (Ret)
Former Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, J-4, AFP

COMMO ANSELMO S LEGASPI AFP (Ret.)
Former Commander,
Naval Reserve Command, PN

CAPT RODOLFO T JAVIER PN (Ret)
Former Naval Task Force Commander

VADM REUBEN LISTA PCG (Ret)
Former Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard

CAPT. ROMUALDO V VELASCO PN (Ret)
Former AC of S for CMO, Philfleet, PN

Should you find the above credo compatible with your individual principles, and want to adopt same, please contact us and register with the Secretariat.

CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE SECRETARIAT:

E-mail: retireescredo@yahoo.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **LANIZA "LANI" MURIEL MENDOZA**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **Sony Life Insurance (Philippines) Corporation** effective May 5, 2004.

Any transaction made by **LANIZA "LANI" MURIEL MENDOZA** on behalf of the company shall not be honored.

(PDI--May 8, 2004)

May 8, 2004 – LAST DAY OF CAMPAIGNING FOR ALL POSITIONS

LIQUOR BAN

May 9, 2004 – (Day Before Election)
May 10, 2004 – (Election Day)

SELLING, FURNISHING, OFFERING, BUYING, SERVING OR TAKING INTOXICATING LIQUOR, ETC. IS PROHIBITED.

A Reminder from The Commission on Elections

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
GSIS-Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan Maasahan.

NOTICE

(Reinsurance of NAPOCOR Minor Policies)

In connection with the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and To Bid for the reinsurance of National Power Corporation's minor policies, the amended schedule of bidding is as follows:

	ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBILITY & BID DOCUMENTS	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID ENVELOPES
Protection & Indemnity Cover	May 4 to 18, 2004 9:00 am-5:00 pm JBC Secretariat 7th Floor-EPDC Bldg., BSP Complex Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 5, 2004 2:00 pm Board Rm, 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 20, 2004 2:00 pm Office of the Chairman Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila
Motor Car & Marine Open Policy	May 7 to 25, 2004 9:00 am-5:00 pm JBC Secretariat 7th Floor-EPDC Bldg., BSP Complex Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 12, 2004 2:00 pm Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 27, 2004 2:00 pm Office of the Chairman Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila

The submission and opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes previously scheduled on **May 19, 2004** is hereby cancelled.

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing a Letter of Intent to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and payment of a non-refundable fee of US$200.00 for Protection & Indemnity Cover and Php5,000.00 each for Motor Car and Marine Open Policies, to the National Power Corporation; however, for the P&I Cover, bidders who participated in the 1st Bidding shall be exempt from payment of the Bid Fee.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations.

The JBC and EEG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent, waive any defect therein and accept the offer that they deem most advantageous to the government.

EVALUATION & ELIGIBILITY GROUP
DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee

(PDI-May 2, 3, 8 & 9, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-026

Ref. No.: PB040423-PP0053
PR Nos.: TRMD-04-005694/GSD-04-005864

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO - BAC) - HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/ contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
1. Procurement of :
   SCHEDULE 1 : SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ENGINEERING COPIER MACHINE, One Unit
   SCHEDULE 2 : TWO-YEAR RENTAL OF EIGHTEEN (18) UNITS OF COPYING MACHINES (Inclusive of eight (8) key operators and one (1) in-house technician)
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents to be issued.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is:
   SCHEDULE 1 : FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php425,000.00)
   SCHEDULE 2 : FIVE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (Php5,800,000.00)
   to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting ***May 07, 2004 to June 05, 2004*** at The BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on ***May 26, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.*** at the Admin Conference Room, G/F, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before ***2:00 p.m. of June 07, 2004*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relatives to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - May 8 & 13, 2004)

COMELEC HOTLINES

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

Obesity surgery leaves some in misery

NEW YORK TIMES

CULPEPPER underwent a gastric bypass operation in a Georgia hospital and has since regretted her decision. Undated photo shows Culpepper's condition before her surgery.

BY THE TIME Linda Culpepper found her way to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, she was in an alarming state. Her hair was falling out, her skin was flaking and her muscles had wasted so much it was hard for her to walk. She had frequent attacks of diarrhea and could rarely eat without vomiting.

Dr. Gordon L. Jensen, director of the Vanderbilt Center for Human Nutrition in Nashville, Tennessee, diagnosed her condition as life-threatening malnutrition, admitted her to the hospital and ordered intravenous feeding immediately.

The cause of the malnutrition was complications from weight-loss surgery performed at another hospital. It was a gastric bypass, a procedure that closes most of the stomach and shortens the small intestine, often leading to weight losses of 100 pounds. That is the operation that has strikingly transformed celebrities like singer Carnie Wilson and comedienne Roseanne Barr.

Successful cases like theirs, combined with a growing epidemic of obesity, have led to soaring demand for the surgery. The surgery has become big business, and medical centers have been scrambling to start programs.

Worrying trend

The rapid growth worries experts like Jensen, as well as some insurers and government officials, who fear that inexperienced surgeons and inadequate screening and follow-up may harm patients.

Jensen said he has seen a "tremendous surge" of patients like Culpepper who have complications from the surgery or have not been taught how to change their eating habits to adjust to the drastic changes in their digestive systems. Most of the patients had surgery at smaller hospitals that were not equipped for the problems, he said.

LINDA Culpepper in her Tennessee home today. NEW YORK TIMES

A recent study suggests that the overall death rate is twice the figure of 0.5 percent to 1 percent that is usually cited, and higher still if a surgeon lacks experience.

Researchers also express concern that the operations are being performed on children and teenagers with scant evidence about long-term effects.

And although the surgery is supposed to be limited to people who are 100 pounds or more overweight, some doctors had actually encouraged obese patients who were not heavy enough to gain more weight so they would qualify.

Intensive training

Dr. Philip Schauer, director of bariatric surgery, the technical name for weight-loss surgery, at Magee-Womens Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh said: "There are a lot of surgeons who are new to this field and frankly haven't had much training. It's the biggest problem we're having right now in this field."

To master a weight-loss operation, Schauer said, a surgeon needs to perform it 100 times.

In Massachusetts, the state health department has convened an expert panel to study the surgery because three patients died last year during or after operations at different hospitals in Boston.

The National Institutes of Health has also begun a study of the surgery.

And the professional group for doctors who perform weight-loss surgery, the American Society for Bariatric Surgery, has begun a program to identify "centers of excellence" for the operations, collect information on their results and use it to help others adopt the best surgical techniques.

Because weight-loss operations make such drastic changes in the digestive system, patients need extensive counseling about how to eat and to take vitamins, or they risk malnutrition or weight gain.

New lease on life

When conducted properly, Jensen said, the surgery can give patients a new lease on life, and for many it is the only thing that works. It can restore health, as well as appearance, quickly easing conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure.

Like any surgery, it has risks. The most common serious complications include bleeding, blood clots, bowel obstructions, hernias and severe infections from leaks in the belly where the stomach and small intestines have been cut and sealed or reconnected.

According to the National Institutes of Health, 10 percent to 20 percent of patients need additional surgery for such complications, and nearly 30 percent develop nutritional deficiencies that lead to conditions like anemia and bone loss.

Researchers at the University of Washington looked at the records of 3,328 obese people who had bariatric surgery from 1987 to 2001. Within 30 days of the surgery, the death rate was 1.9 percent. Patients were 4.7 times as likely to die during a surgeon's first 19 procedures than after the surgeon had gained more experience.

Dr. David R. Flum, a gastrointestinal surgeon who led the study, said the real death rate might be higher than 2 percent, because the study did not include patients older than 65, and their risks appear higher.

Patients who survive the surgery do live longer than the very obese who do not have the surgery, Flum's study found. After 15 years, patients who had the bypass were more likely to be alive than those who did not—88.2 percent versus 83.7 percent.

Little preparation

Culpepper, now 60, had a bypass in January 2003 at a small hospital in Georgia. Five feet tall, she weighed 258 pounds and had diabetes and high blood pressure. She wanted the surgery because she was convinced that her obesity would kill her.

She had just one meeting each with a dietitian, a psychologist and a cardiologist before the surgery, and there was no support group, she said.

After the surgery, Culpepper had respiratory failure, a heart attack, a severe infection and other problems that kept her in the hospital on a ventilator for several months. In that time, she lost nearly 100 pounds.

A lung specialist who examined her after she had been transferred to a larger hospital said she should never have been cleared for the surgery because she had lung disease related to her obesity.

When Culpepper was finally released, without the vitamins essential after surgery, she had diarrhea much of the time and vomited so much that she could barely eat. Her medical bills ran to more than $1 million.

At Vanderbilt, Culpepper was fed intravenously and through a stomach tube until she gradually regained some strength. The initial plan was to build her up enough to withstand another operation that would reverse the bypass. Doctors suspected that she could not keep food down because her stomach had been made too small. Ultimately, though, for reasons that her doctors do not fully understand, she was able to eat small amounts, and the reversal was not necessary.

She now weighs 127 lbs. "Right now, I'm on top of the world," she said. "I'm happy, I'm still fairly healthy."

Nonetheless, Culpepper said, she wishes she had never had the operation. She said, "I think I've been able to talk a few people out of it." *Science Times/ New York Times News Service*

Hair loss not just men's concern

By Charles E. Buban

HAIR loss is often the first sign of aging. But while it tends to start in men who are in their 30s or 40s, as many as two-thirds of women also experience hair loss, generally when they reach their 40s or 50s.

"Hair loss is actually as common in women as it is in men. But while men tend to lose hair on the front and at the top area of their head (which is very noticeable), women experience it by having more diffuse thinning throughout the scalp," says Dr. Ma. Rica Silva-Mallari, head of the Dermatology Center's Hair Unit at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

And as with almost any type of medical condition, hair loss can be treated effectively if it is caught early enough.

Detecting loss

Like skin cells, hair grows and is shed normally anywhere from 50 to 100 strands per day.

"The key is not in making an accounting of all the hair that fall but paying close attention to any changes in the hair's appearance or texture and seeing a dermatologist for a correct diagnosis," suggests Mallari.

Baldness occurs when hair falls out but new hair does not grow in its place.

Male pattern baldness (MPB), the most common type of hair loss among men, usually follows a typical pattern of receding hairline and hair thinning on the crown, and is caused by hormones and genetic predisposition.

In female pattern baldness (FPB), the failure of new hair growth is often associated with genetic predisposition, aging and levels of endocrine hormones (particularly, the androgens).

Other causes

In FPB, the hair thins all over the head, but the frontal hairline is maintained.

"There may be a moderate loss of hair on the crown, but this rarely progresses to total or near baldness as it does in men," says Mallari, who trained at the University of Melbourne's St. Vincent's Hospital.

She says FPB may include temporary shedding of hair, breaking of hair (from such things as styling treatments and twisting or pulling of hair) and patchy areas of total hair loss which could be caused by some medications and skin diseases.

Says Mallari: "For women particularly, one major reason to see a specialist is to rule out other causes of hair loss aside from FPB. Women should talk to a dermatologist immediately because there might be a need for a medical work-up and to find a solution to the problem.

According to her, a common cause of hair loss in women is hormonal, generally either due to use of or getting off birth control pills or the end of pregnancy.

Treatment

Once these causes have been eliminated and genetic hair loss has been established, specialists can begin treatment. Right now, the only drugs approved for hair loss are minoxidil (Rogaine) for men and women, and finasteride (Propecia) for men.

Minoxidil is available over the counter while finasteride is only available by prescription.

Mallari says these drugs were not really intended for hair loss treatment. Minoxidil was originally developed to treat high blood pressure but doctors noted it increased hair growth as a side effect.

Finasteride was originally used for treating prostate enlargement.

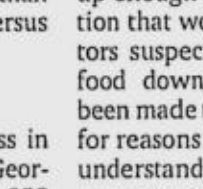
"If one does not respond to medical treatments, surgical hair restoration is the only truly permanent solution to baldness," says Mallari. "It involves a series of operations that extract plugs of scalp from the sides and back of one's head (where hair grows densely) and implant them on top and in front, where there is baldness."

Lessons from a Nobel winner

(Second of three parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua



NOBEL Prize winner Murray Gell-Mann is a fascinating figure—a theoretical physicist, a lover of linguistics and archeology, and a best-selling popular science author. Last week we looked at lessons derived from his childhood. We now continue our discussion with his career and achievements. (The first-person excerpts are quoted from John Brockman's interview with him in Edge last year.)

Lesson No. 3: Follow your heart, but sometimes compromise works. (Also, give physics a second chance. Advanced topics are usually more fun than basic ones.)

Gell-Mann's father wanted him to take up engineering at Yale, but his heart was in other things.

"I discussed my application to Yale with my father, who asked, 'What were you thinking of putting down?' I said, 'Whatever would be appropriate for archeology or linguistics, or both, because those are the things I'm most enthusiastic about. I'm also interested in natural history and exploration.' He said, 'You'll starve!' because this was 1944 and his experiences with the Depression were still quite fresh in his mind; we were still living in genteel poverty.

"He could have quit his job as the vault custodian in a bank and taken a position during the war that would have utilized his talents—his skill in mathematics, for example—but he didn't want to take the risk of changing jobs. He felt that after the war he would regret it, so he stayed where he was.

Physics as compromise

"I asked him, 'What would you suggest?' He mentioned engineering, to which I replied, 'I'd rather starve. If I designed anything it would fall apart.'

"Then my father suggested, 'Why don't we compromise—on physics?' I pointed out to him that I had taken a course in physics in high school which was not only the dullest class I had ever had but also the only one in which I had ever done badly. We memorized the seven kinds of simple machines and then learned little bits about heat, light, electricity, magnetism, wave motion, and mechanics, but without any hint that these things might be related to one another. I couldn't possibly study such a subject.

"He said, 'It'll be very different when you take advanced courses in physics. You'll learn general relativity and quantum mechanics, and those are very, very beautiful.'

"I thought I would please the old man since it didn't really make any difference what I wrote down on this form. If through some miracle I were admitted to Yale and also got that one scholarship that would permit me to attend, I could always change my mind.

"When I arrived in New Haven I was too lazy to switch major subjects, so I actually took physics courses, among others. I got hooked on quantum mechanics and relativity, just the way my father had predicted, and I worked on physics for many, many years. Now, at the Santa Fe Institute, I'm encouraged to work on a broad spectrum of fields, so I'm back to archeology, linguistics, and many other topics along with some physics."

Best teachers

Lesson No. 4: Superb teachers make a difference.

Gell-Mann remembers with fondness his teacher Henry Margenau who taught Philosophy of physics three times a week at 10 a.m.

"Margenau's course did not confine itself to philosophy of physics. It was really about physics itself, with some mention of philosophy in connection with each topic. Margenau bypassed all the fears that people have about learning relatively advanced subjects. The advanced topics like quantum mechanics and general relativity loomed as difficult obstacles to overcome in the future, but he made everything so easy.

"We started with Lagrangian and Hamiltonian mechanics, and Margenau began by saying, 'I assume you've all studied the calculus of variations?' We said no. He then asked, 'What do your math teachers do in class today? Apparently they don't teach you anything useful, just epsilons and deltas.'

"He said, 'I'll teach you the calculus of variations today, and then on Thursday and Saturday we'll do Lagrangian mechanics.' Then we went on to special relativity, and we went through that in a week or so.

"Next he announced, 'We're going to work on general relativity now, but you need to know tensor analysis; I assume you all know tensor analysis.' We said no. He replied, 'Well, that's a problem. We'll have to do tensor analysis today and Thursday, and then on Saturday we'll take up general relativity.'

"That's the way it went—it was actually just that easy, including the discussion of quantum mechanics. There were also interesting remarks of a philosophical nature—brief, but very instructive."

A prostate gland can rule a country's destiny

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

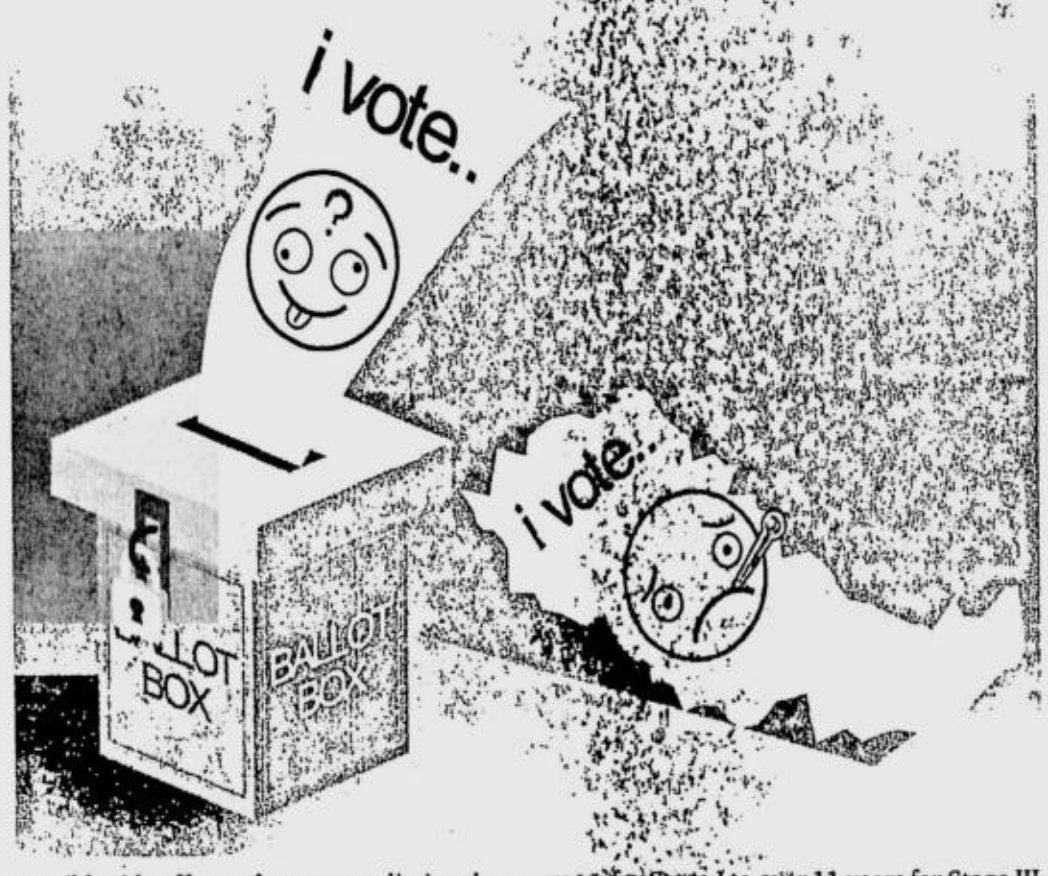
(Conclusion)

A TAXI driver was asked, "What is more important, the brain or the prostate gland?" The driver coyly answered, "*Hindi ko po alam kung ano ang* prostate gland, *pero ang alam ko, kahit na walang utak ang isang kandidato, marami pa rin boboto sa kanya, pero kung may kanser sa* prostate, *ayaw nang iboto ng tao* (I don't know what a prostate gland is, but what I know is that many people will still elect a brainless candidate, but not someone with prostate cancer.)"

MEDICAL FILES

Of all types of cancers, prostate cancer is considered the most benign, compatible with a natural history of 10 to 15 years from the time of diagnosis. But like all cancers, it or its complications eventually kills the patient.

If cancer is found in the prostate, the doctor needs to know the stage, or extent, of the disease. Staging is important since treatment decisions and life expectancy depend on these findings. Tumors with higher scores or grades are more likely to grow and spread than those with lower scores.



4 stages

- **Stage I or Stage A.** The cancer cannot be felt during a rectal exam. It may be found by accident when surgery is done for another reason, usually for benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH). There is no evidence that the cancer has spread outside the prostate.
- **Stage II or Stage B.** The tumor involves more tissue within the prostate and it can be felt by the doctor during a rectal exam. It may be detected with a biopsy that is done because of a high prostatic surface antigen, or PSA, level. There is no evidence that the cancer has spread outside the prostate.
- **Stage III or Stage C.** The cancer has spread outside the prostate to nearby tissues.
- **Stage IV or Stage D.** The cancer has spread to lymph nodes or to other parts of the body.

Treatment options

Treatment for prostate cancer may involve watchful waiting, surgery, radiation therapy or hormonal therapy. Some patients receive a combination of therapies.

Watchful waiting may be suggested for some men who have prostate cancer that is found at an early stage and appears to be slowly growing. It may also be advised for older men or those with other serious medical problems. For these patients, the risks and possible side effects of surgery, radiation therapy or hormonal therapy may outweigh the possible benefits.

Hormonal therapy may be given to suppress the male hormones which prostate cancer cells need to grow. It is called systemic therapy because it can affect cancer cells throughout the body. Systemic therapy is used to treat cancer that has spread. Sometimes it is used to try to prevent the cancer from coming back after surgery or radiation treatment. This is probably what some would call "intelligent medicine."

Life expectancy

To determine the life expectancy of someone with prostate cancer, it is important to determine at what stage or grade the cancer is in, and other coexisting medical problems or comorbidities that are present in the patient.

Patients with Stage I-II cancer may expect to live 10 years or longer, while those with a more advanced stage (Stage III-IV) may have a considerably shorter life expectancy. Complications from a cancer which has spread such as severe bone pains, pathological fractures and proneness to infections may cause recurrent hospitalizations and disability.

For 55-year-old men, the loss of life expectancy ranges from approximately two years for Stage I to over 11 years for Stage III-IV disease. However, for men at age 75 the number of life years lost is much smaller, ranging from less than one year for Stage I to two years for Stage III disease.

Clearly, relatively young men with prostate cancer may lose many more potential life years to cancer than older men with disease of comparable grade and have a correspondingly higher risk of dying from, and not with, their cancer.

The other factor that affects the life expectancy of patients with prostate cancer is coexisting conditions, such as heart disease, lung problems, diabetes and other significant medical conditions.

Clinical data suggest two important points. First, comorbidity may pose an even higher risk of death than the cancer itself, particularly for early stages. Second, life expectancy loss because of cancer is lower in men who have coexisting illnesses. Patients with a high burden of comorbidity are less likely to die from prostate cancer and, therefore, lose fewer years of life to prostate cancer if they die early from another illness.

Living with a serious disease such as prostate cancer is not easy. Some people find they need help coping with the emotional as well as the practical aspects of their disease.

Doctors decry media handling of prostate cancer issue

By Tessa R. Salazar

DOCTORS and specialists of the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology are disappointed over the way media have been handling the issue of prostate cancer.

According to them, media outfits have sent the wrong message in the way they have reported on presidential aspirant Raul Roco's state of health. They cited a newspaper report that Roco's prostate cancer had allegedly spread to the bones, but the same report indicated that the cancer had been cured.

Roco's seeking of treatment abroad has also disheartened Filipino physicians. This has sent a message, PSMO says, that medicine and treatment in the Philippines is in a sorry state and that local doctors are not capable of managing the disease.

In a telephone interview, PSMO president Dr. Gracieux Y. Fernando says many of the statements released in media regarding the disease appeared "tailored" and did not fully describe the true impact of the disease on the life of the person involved.

PSMO, he says, feared that the manner the information had been handled could trivialize the disease, downplay the role of Filipino physicians in managing the problem, and introduce misconceptions that would interfere in the early detection and subsequent management of prostate cancer in patients.

13th leading cancer

Fernando says prostatic cancer is the 13th leading cause of cancer in the Philippines. Data from the Philippine Cancer Society registry show it is the 3rd leading cause of cancer in Filipino males.

In 1998, it was the 8th leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the country.

The bone represents the most common site of distant metastasis in prostate cancer, according to Fernando.

As in any other malignancy, a finding of distant metastasis indicates that the patient is already in the fourth and final stage of the disease. Except for a small number of cancers, most cancers in this stage are rarely "curable."

But this does not mean that the patient is going to die soon.

Treatment available

Oncologists stress that if the metastases are detected early and there exist modalities that can adequately treat and control the disease, treatment can result in the slowing of tumor growth and consequently a slowing of the disease progression. This may then translate to an improvement in the patient's symptoms and a longer survival period.

Fernando says that with very few exceptions, the therapeutic modalities needed to treat all stages of prostate cancer are available in the Philippines.

"We have experts in the fields of medical oncology, urology and radiology who are more than capable of handling the multimodality treatment of all stages of prostate cancer. Medications, including the latest antiandrogens (agents that block the effect of testosterone on the prostate tumor, thus slowing its growth and even killing its cells), biphosphonates (drugs that control the destructive effects of metastatic cancer on bone), as well as radiotherapy units, albeit limited in number, are all available in the country.

"Besides, treatment in the Philippines remains so much cheaper than similar treatments abroad, yet the results achieved remain at par with similar efforts done in other countries," he says.

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Curved root

MY DENTIST was doing my root canal when he decided to refer me to a specialist because the root of my molar was too curved. Why did he start the root canal in the first place? I don't feel comfortable seeing another dentist. Will this be worth the additional cost?

—Emily

Your dentist probably started the root canal because all factors appeared to be manageable at the start.

One always feels uneasy seeing a new dentist but be glad that your dentist was honest enough to admit that your case was beyond his capabilities. As for the additional cost, you can ask the specialist how much the root canal costs. Saving the tooth can be expensive but sometimes extracting it and getting the tooth replaced can even be more expensive. I would say that saving the tooth is usually best. There is nothing like your own natural tooth. Just ask people wearing dentures.

E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

The truth about green tea

THE CLAIM: Green tea helps you lose weight.

The Facts: Don't count on it, says Dr. Donald Hensrud of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. There has been no long-term research proving that people can shed pounds by loading up on green tea.

One recent study, conducted on 10 young men, showed that green tea extract could elevate energy expenditure over 24 hours by 4 percent. But it is unclear whether such an effect can lead to measurable weight loss.

Another well-known study, done in the Netherlands, had less impressive results. Researchers found that people who dieted and then took green tea to stay fit had as much success as those given a placebo.

The Bottom Line: Green tea, a rich source of antioxidants, might offer a number of health benefits, Hensrud said, but there is no good evidence that weight loss is one of them. *Science Times/New York Times News Service*

KIDS' QUIZ

Gangs of animals

THIS is the third in a series of quizzes on animal groupings. Check your knowledge of the names for the group of animals by matching the name of animals on the left with the name of their group on the right.

Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

Dianne M. Villafuerte

Animals	Name of their group
1. Tigers	a) Company
2. Colts	b) Earth
3. Foxes	c) Leap
4. Doves	d) Covey
5. Elk	e) Team
6. Kittens	f) Troop
7. Parrots	g) Ambush
8. Leopards	h) Rag
9. Monkeys	i) Gang
10. Oxen	j) Flight
	k) Kindle

ANSWERS: 1-g, 2-h, 3-b, 4-j, 5-i, 6-k, 7-a, 8-c, 9-f, 10-e.

Be EDucated

Dr. Jesus Benjamin L. Mendoza

I have read that there are three available oral treatments for Erectile Dysfunction. Which one should I choose?

Treatments for Erectile Dysfunction (ED) include topical and intraurethral agents, vacuum constriction devices, penile prosthesis and oral medications. Among all these treatments, it is widely believed that oral agents are the most desirable and acceptable to patients. They are efficacious and well-tolerated.

There are three oral prescription medicines for ED that are available in the market today: sildenafil, tadalafil and vardenafil.

All three drugs act on an enzyme that helps facilitate and maintain erection by relaxing the smooth muscles in the penis and blood vessels. These medications are contraindicated in patients taking nitrates to control chest pain (also known as angina).

In clinical trials, all three medications improved the ability to achieve erections, satisfaction with the hardness of erections, ability to maintain erections for successful sexual intercourse, and satisfaction with sexual intercourse, in more than 80 percent of patients after sexual stimulation.

A small percentage of patients may feel transient and tolerable side effects with these three drugs. These are headache, facial flushing, stuffy nose and stomach upset. Mild backache and muscle ache have also been reported with tadalafil. Visual disturbances have also been reported with sildenafil.

The oral treatment works fast - within 15 minutes in one third of patients and within 30 minutes in one half of patients. The main difference among the three drugs is in the duration of effectiveness. The duration of effectiveness of sildenafil and vardenafil is up to 4 to 5 hours, tadalafil can work up to 36 hours. Another difference is that sildenafil requires an empty stomach. Taking alcohol or a meal, especially high-fat foods, affects the effectiveness of sildenafil. High-fat foods can also affect the effectiveness of vardenafil. With tadalafil, you don't need to plan around meals or avoid high-fat foods because the absorption of tadalafil is not affected by food. You can eat and drink like you normally do.

Because tadalafil gives you 36 hours to choose the moment that is right to be intimate, your sex life is more flexible and spontaneous.

Because tadalafil gives you up to 36 hours to choose the moment that is right to be intimate, your sex life is more flexible and spontaneous. However, sexual stimulation is required for all the three oral treatments. You will not get an erection by just taking medication.

Finally, it is recommended that patients must try all three drugs to test efficacy and side effects as every individual reacts differently to a particular drug and every individual has different timing of food intake and intimacy.

Consult your doctor now and ask for the ED treatment that allows you the freedom to choose the right moment.

Jesus Benjamin L. Mendoza, M.D., consultant National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Cardinal Santos Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, and San Juan de Dios Hospital.

ADVT

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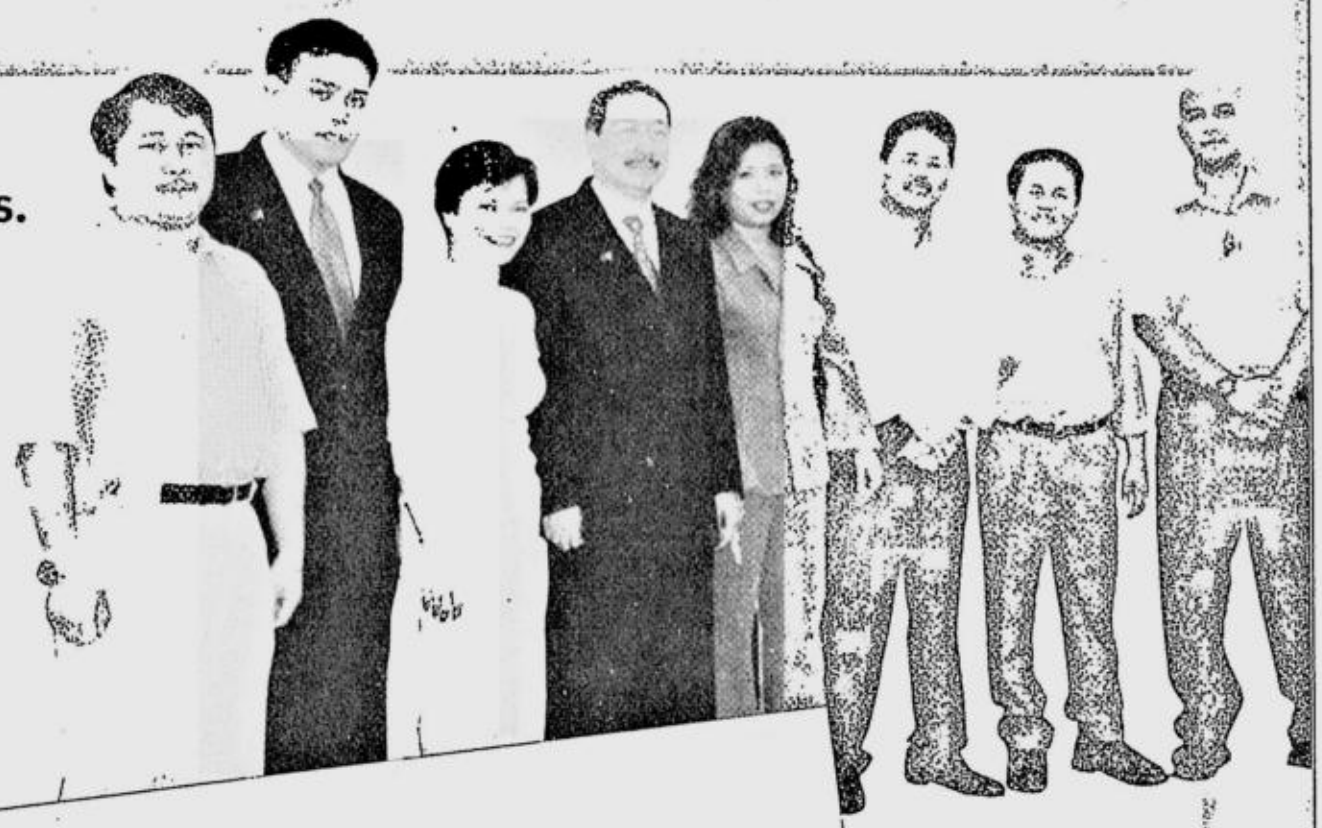
Maraming salamat, Presidente Gloria.

TRULY, YOU ARE THE CHAMPION OF OFWs.

With your invaluable help, through Ambassador Amable R. Aguiluz V, the Sultan of Oman has finally lifted the ban on more Filipino nationals desiring to work here. Oman is now open to accepting a volume triple of our present number of 15,000. This means an additional remittance of ₱300 million every year for our country.



Ambassador Amable R. Aguiluz V, Special Envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), with Emilio G. Perona, Jr., Chairman of FILCOSOC-Oman and other officers.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUB
P.O. Box 592 Al Mina Al Fahal Email: filcosocclub@yahoo.com

FCSC/MLA/02

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

You Excellency,

RE: LIFTING OF VISA BAN

We, members of the Filipino Community Social Club – Oman (FILCOSOC) would like to express our heartfelt and sincerest gratitude to you for facilitating the lifting of the visa ban of Filipinos here in Oman – *as promised through your most able Special Envoy to the Middle East, Ambassador Amable Aguiluz.*

The Filipino community here in Oman will never forget that only through your sincere effort was the lifting of the said visa ban, which has been an elusive dream for so many of us, finally realized.

A government of words and deeds like yours deserve to be commended. And it is our most ardent prayer to God Almighty that the Filipino people at large will realized the exemplary leadership you have shown us all, and give you the mandate to continue the good works you have started.

God bless you and more power to you Madam President!

Very truly yours,
For and on behalf of the **FILIPINO COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUB – OMAN**

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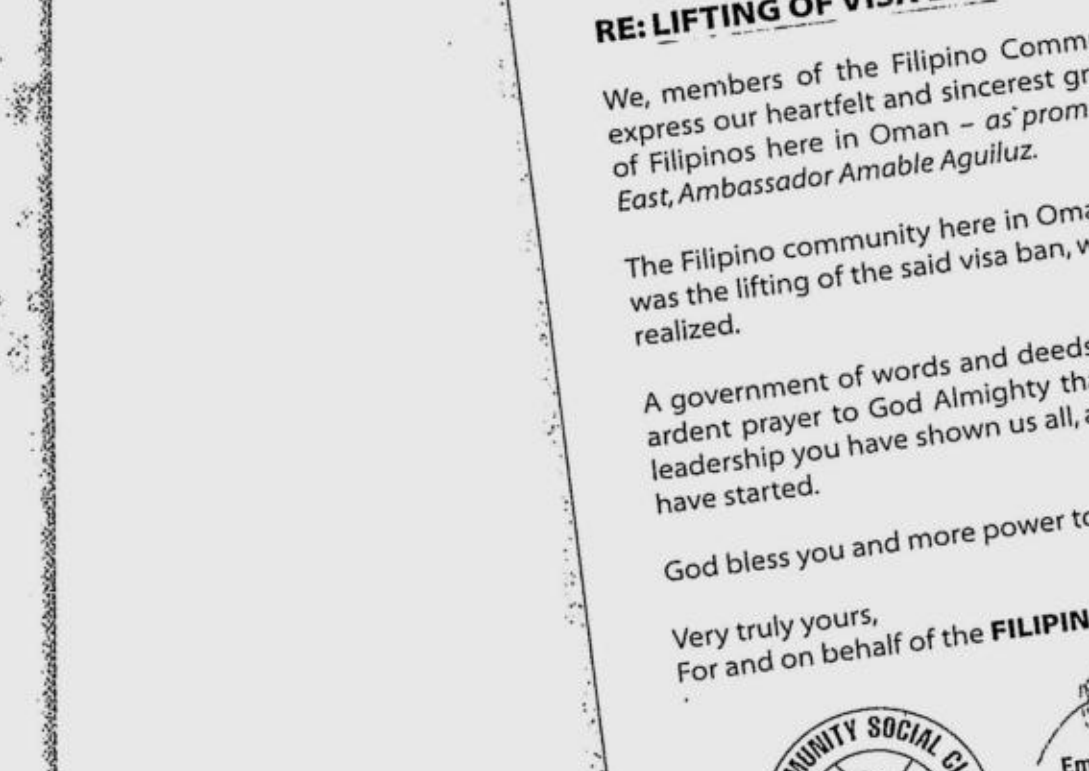

Ambassador Aguiluz met with the Oman Minister of Manpower Juma bin Ali bin Juma before they jointly announced the lifting of the ban on May 4, 2004.

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY special

Editor Nestor U. Torre ◘ Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Devoted mothers with stellar careers

CUNETA. Opting out of show biz for another child.

SANTOS. Went on a hiatus to bear and rear her son.

By Nestor U. Torre

HOW do we celebrate Mother's Day (May 9) in the world of entertainment? Very selectively! Many stars are praised for being charismatic moms, but truth to tell, some fall short of their publicity blurbs in the parenting department.

Not that they don't want to do well. Trouble is, they're so busy focusing on their demanding stellar careers and killer schedules that many leave the day-to-day rearing of their children to assorted relatives, *yayas* and *alalays*.

Quality time

They're so wrapped up in themselves and their careers that they devote mostly "quality time" to their kids. Of course, children need and deserve much more than that, so quite a number of the offspring of local show biz stars end up troubled, unfocused and acutely problematic.

On show biz's version of Mother's Day, however, let us toast, not the psychedelic superstars with careers that consume them like comets, but to the stellar mothers who have determinedly made enough time to nurture their children, despite the dazzling distractions of the entertainment world.

Marriage

There's Barbara Perez, who turned down an international film career in favor of marriage and motherhood here. She and husband Robert Arevalo, another star, have brought up their two daughters with love and constant care.

Major commitment

Boots Anson-Roa is the daughter of a star (Oscar Moreno), the wife of host-producer Pete Roa, and the mother of TV host-anchor Chiqui Roa-Puno—in other words, she is show biz through and through. And yet, like Barbara, her family is her major commitment.

She is busier than most, with her many involvements at Mowelfund, the NCCA's Cinema Committee, the Cinema Evaluation Board—etc.! But her children can attest to her hands-on mothering skills, which have helped make them achievers in their own fields.

Some superstars have found time to be similarly committed mothers, but only by determinedly putting

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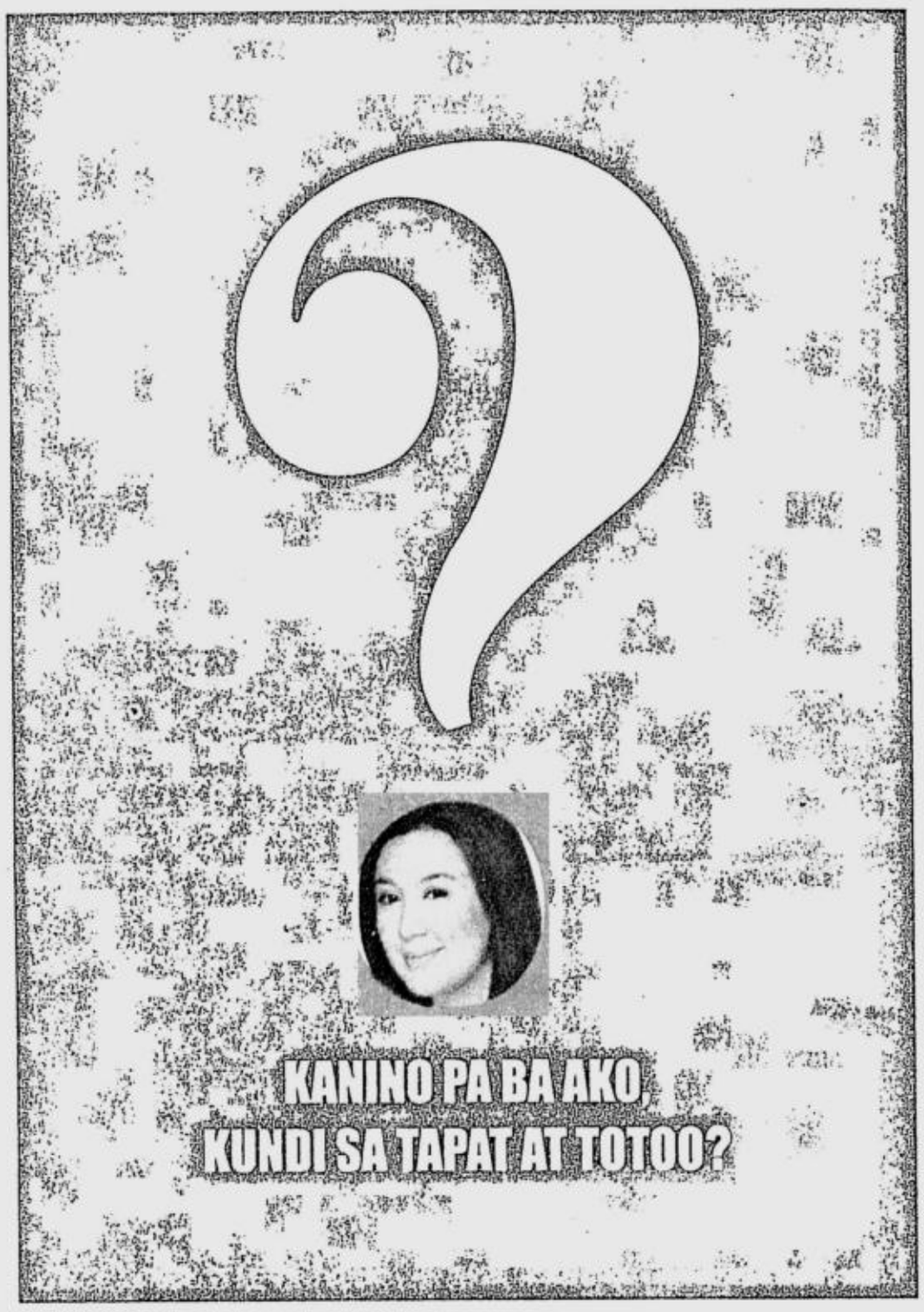

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1536, Series of 2004

Attractive power of well-told lies

By Noelani Torre

THERE'S more than one fishy creature in Tim Burton's latest opus, "Big Fish." There's the actual one—an uncatcheable catfish the size of a log, and then, there's the tall tale-telling Edward Bloom, a metaphorical big fish in a small pond, who is the film's central character.

McGREGOR. Believable as the younger incarnation of the protagonist.

This isn't just a simple the-one-that-got-away fish tale, however. The movie revolves around the relationship of a father and son and is about the attractive power of well-told lies over the human psyche.

Estrangement

Based on Daniel Wallace's novel, "Big Fish. A Story of Mythic Proportions," the movie tells the tale of a magnetic Alabaman charmer (Ewan McGregor) who reinvents his past through extravagant retellings.

This is a bone of contention between him and his son Will, who has come to resent his father's tall tales, and results in an estrangement that ends only when Will learns that Edward is dying.

He begs his father to tell him the unadulterated truth for once, but the old man sticks vociferously to his fantastic versions.

Will's struggle to understand his father grounds the story, but it is in the flashbacks to Edward's past that the movie comes wildly and colorfully alive in the Burtonian way that we have all come to love.

Imaginative

One of Hollywood's most inventive and imaginative filmmakers, Burton has given us such films as "Edward Scissorhands," "Ed Wood," "The Nightmare Before Christmas," and "Batman"—all of which display his talent for creating odd, visually compelling but fascinating otherworlds.

With Philip Rousselot as director of photography, and Dennis Gassner as production designer, Burton builds on Edward's yarns, letting loose a string of incredible characters and scenes that include a witch with a death-predicting glass eye, a big fish that swallows a wedding ring, a surreal paradise town, a gentle giant named Karl, a circus ringmaster who's also a werewolf, conjoined twins named Ping and Jing, etc.—!

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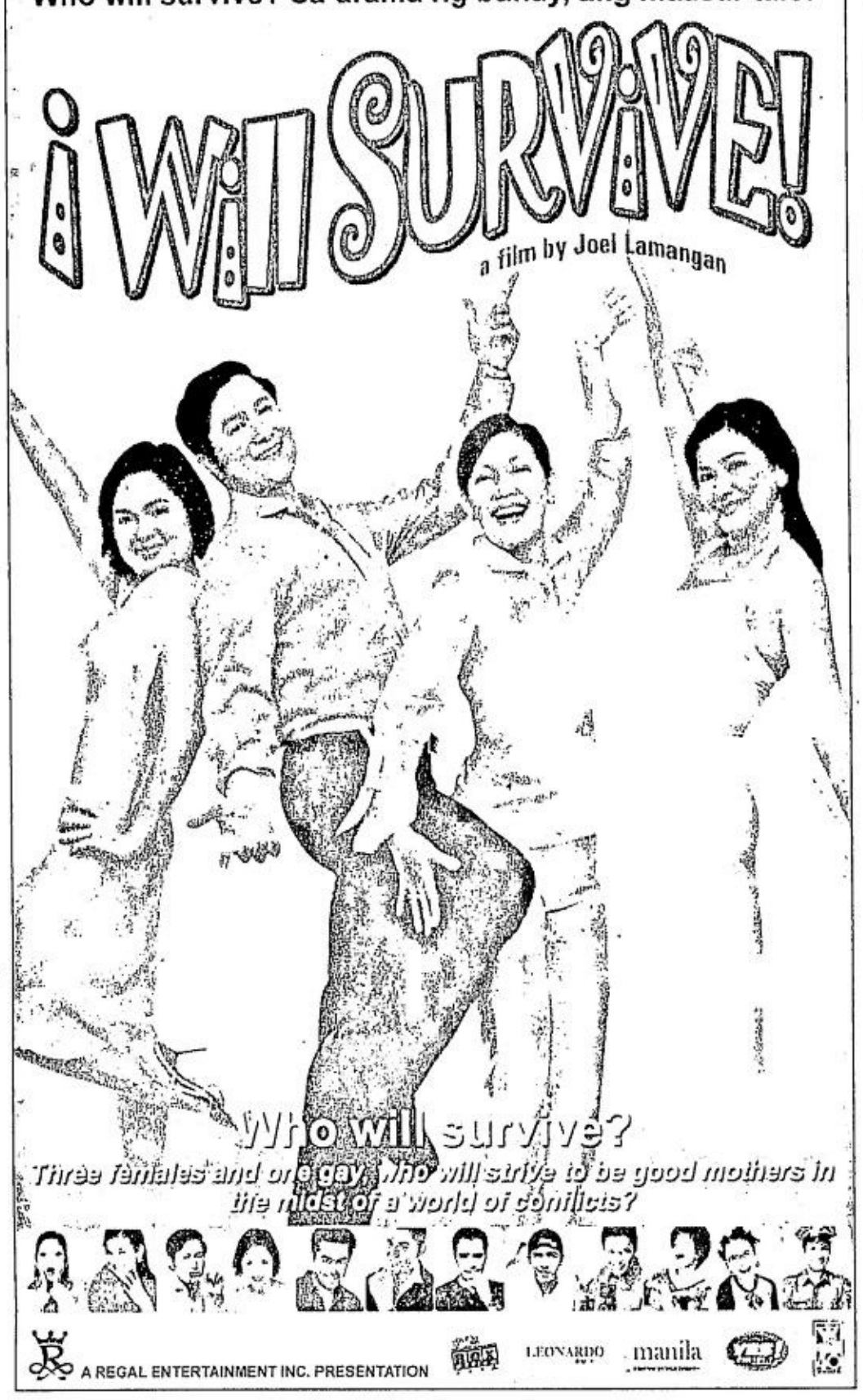
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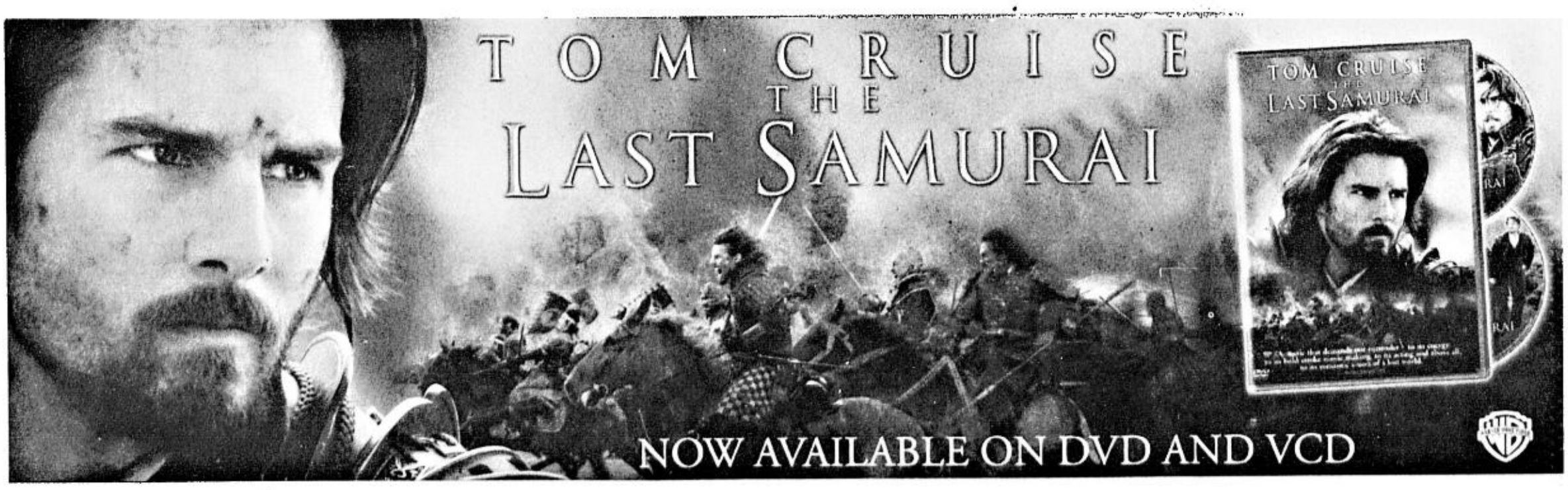
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Sharing comes naturally to Cheloy Dans

By Nestor U. Torre

IN the highly competitive world of the visual arts, Araceli "Cheloy" Limcaco Dans has carved out a coveted niche for herself as a pioneering arts educator, perceptive portraitist and painter of children.

She has also come into her own with her beautiful and much-appreciated *calado* paintings, combining her detailed renditions of *piña* embroidery with flowers, shells and other complementary objects.

Influence

Cheloy's influence in the art world has been enhanced by her educational TV programs for young viewers, which have won a number of awards.

In addition, now that she's a much-respected senior artist whose unique canvases are avidly sought after by collectors, Cheloy has generously helped a number of younger artists get their start.

At least once a year, they put up group exhibits that have gone a long way in furthering the careers of the less experienced painters who look up to her as their mentor and guide.

Some other senior artists would find it a royal bother, but sharing comes naturally to Cheloy, who has spent all of her life giving of her art—and her heart—to the lucky people she mentors or befriends.

How did Cheloy Dans get to where she is now? Artists may not be born, but she certainly had a head start over her peers, because she started drawing and painting like a dervish when she was only seven. Her mother feared that there was no future in her little daughter's artistic impulses, but her dad secretly encouraged her.

Craftsmanship

Little Cheloy started taking traditional art classes with tutor Angela Fernandez, with adults for classmates! It was all terribly dry, rigid and formal, but looking back now, Cheloy allows that she did learn painting skills and craftsmanship that have served her in good stead throughout her artistic life .

Much later, however, when it was her turn to teach young artists at Philippine Women's University and the Ateneo Grade School, Cheloy sensed that child artists shouldn't be rigidly instructed, but should be free to express themselves with their own symbols and emotions.

Performing arts

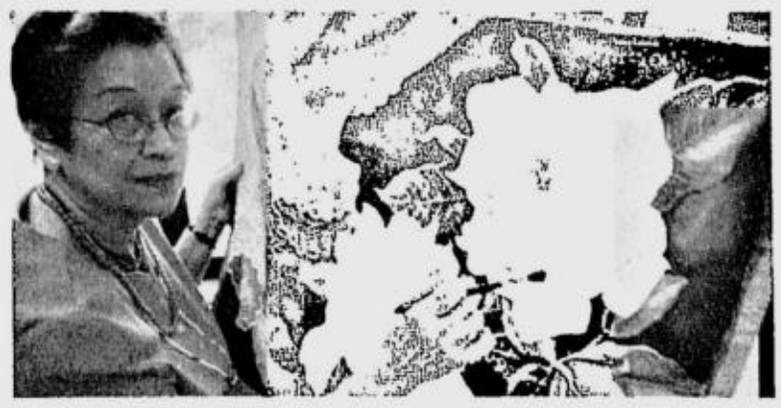
Aside from painting, Cheloy was also fascinated by the performing arts, like singing. Along with Fides Cuyugan (Asensio), she became a protege of the well-known vocal coach, Felicing Tirona,

In college at UP, however. she focused on the visual arts, and became a student of Fernando Amorsolo.

Truth to tell, the illustrious artist was painfully shy—and thus, hardly lectured at all!

One day, however, Cheloy dared to collar him as he was making an early getaway from the classroom, and didn't let him go until he went beyond mumbling comments about her "*kulay tinapay na* portrait," and sagely corrected her palette of colors.

That was her only extended encounter with her famous teacher, but immediately afterwards, "*iba na ang trabaho ko*—even with his shy comments, he had validated me as an artist," Cheloy observes gratefully. *(To be concluded)*



DANS. Her UP teacher, Fernando Amorsolo, sagely corrected her palette of colors.

Devoted mothers . . .

From page C1

their high-flying careers on hold.

Vilma Santos showed the way when she went on a hiatus of some years to bear and rear her and Sen. Ralph Recto's son.

Comeback

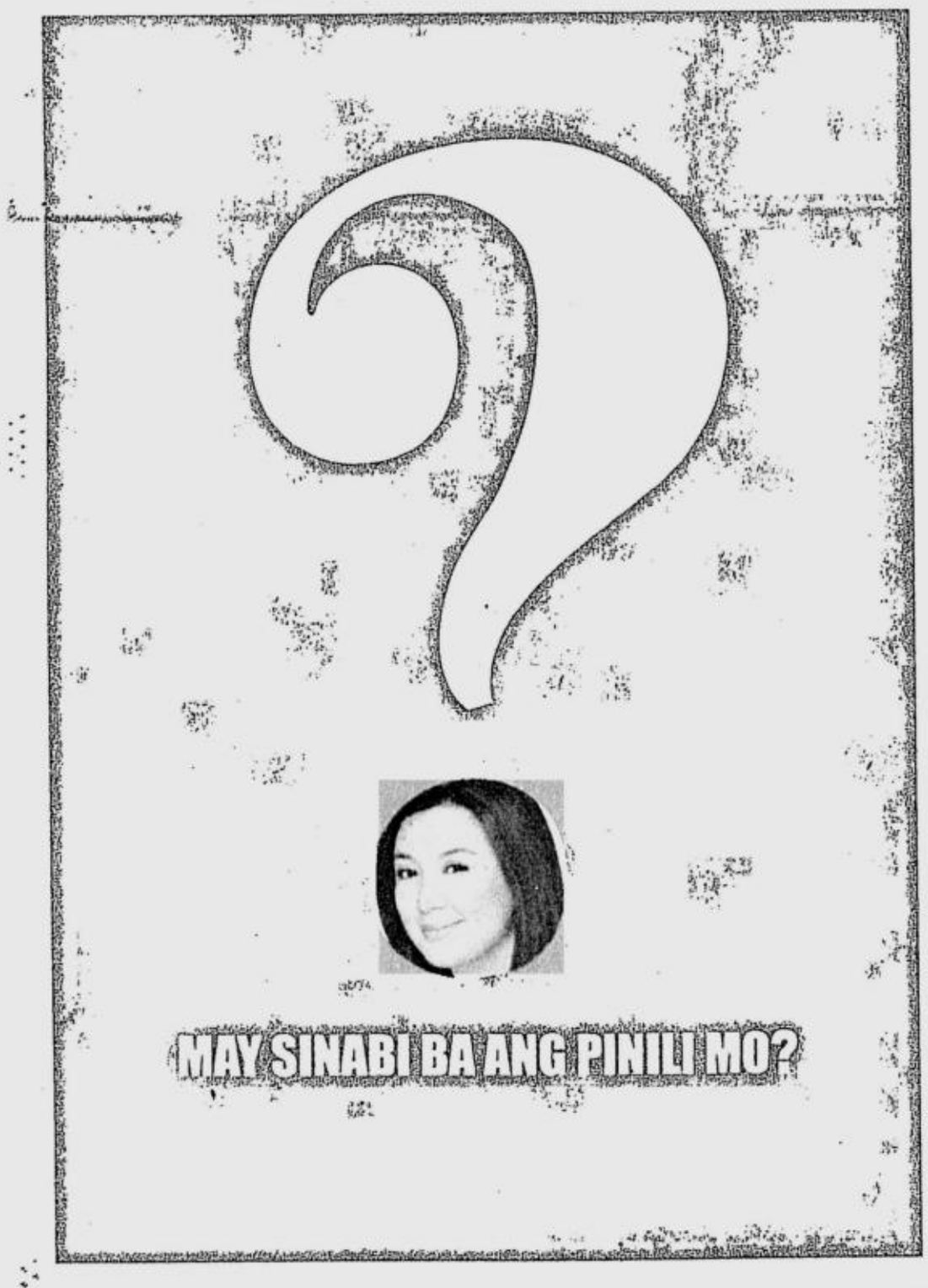
On the local TV-film scene, "out of sight, out of mind" is the operative principle, so what Vilma did was very risky. And yet, she succeeded splendidly, both as mother and star.

ANSON-ROA. Hands-on mothering skills.

Some years later, Sharon Cuneta also risked her career to have a child with her husband, Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

And now, Sharon is once more opting out of show biz to have another child to love and cherish.

To all mothers, in entertainment and elsewhere, our collective love and gratitude. —And that goes double for our own wonderful mom, Isabel Urbina Torre!



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JACKMAN, left, with Kate Beckinsale in "Van Helsing."

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Hugh Jackman stakes claim on superstardom

By Rito P. Asilo

"Van Helsing"

D: Stephen Sommers
S: Hugh Jackman, Kate Beckinsale

IN SOMMER'S fabulous re-imagination of Bram Stroker's Vatican-sponsored, 19th century monster slayer, Gabriel Van Helsing (Jackman in top form) is a fabled vigilante who teams up with a vengeful vamp killer, Transylvanian princess Anna Valerious (Beckinsale)—whose family has been persecuted for generations by the ruthless Ladislav Dracula—to stop the oviparous Count from propagating his blood-sucking species.

Sommers successfully weaves ILM's CG magic and his remarkable visual sense with a dark, psychological tone that gives his story a Gothic, moody depth, and his iconic monster-characters' empathetic arcs allow us to understand their motivations:

In the film, the Frankenstein monster is a sympathetic freak—and an unlikely hero—who agonizes over the murder of his creator, whom he calls "father"; Dracula's three pale-skinned brides wail in maternal horror as their fanged progeny fall victim to vampire slayers. Even the grim Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde's revamped mythology is more engrossing than any of Sommer's characters in "The Mummy."

But, make no mistake, Jackman's movie is as much a dizzying, high-adrenaline action dazzler as it is a gripping story of vengeance and faith.

"I Will Survive"

D: Joel Lamangan
S: Maricel Soriano, Judy Ann Santos

After the overwrought and predictable "Filipinas," Lamangan's star-studded attempt at comedy, about the lives and loves of four friends, is refreshing and moderately engaging.

Cynthia (Soriano) is a neglected, undersexed wife with an oversexed son. She cooks up plans to win back her husband's lustful attention after he starts to fool around, only to realize that the solution to her dilemma—a cheap cologne—comes with a dire consequence!

Qatar-based OFW Mylene (Santos), who comes home for a six-month sabbatical after six years, has a distant daughter and an Australia-based OFW husband (TJ Trinidad) with fidelity issues.

The beautiful Louise (Dina Bonnevie) is perplexed by her plain-looking daughter's resistance to her world of beauty. Gay, single-parent Mandy (Eric Quizon) struggles to sustain a loving relationship with his policeman lover, while keeping his homosexuality a secret from his suspicious son, Dindo (Jay Aquitania).

Despite the familiar storyline, Lamangan injects some engaging perspectives and funny dynamics among his characters. His welcome, positive take on the non-abusive gay relationship between Quizon and Reggie Curley goes beyond stereotypical cinematic depictions, and he coaxes good performances from his talented cast—particularly from Eric Quizon, Soriano, Santos, and from two promising actors: TJ Trinidad and Jay Aquitania. Dexter Santos' choreography is fun and appropriately perky.

"Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen"

D: Sara Sugarman
S: Lindsay Lohan, Adam Garcia

Fun, frothy but vacuous, "Confessions" follows an unapologetically self-absorbed teenage girl's pursuit of celebrity in her new school in suburban New Jersey after she and her mom relocate from trendy New York.

To jumpstart her ascent to popularity, Lola (the delightful Lohan) sets her sights on the lead in the annual school play, but she finds resistance from the jealous, local beauty, Carla, who uses Lola's penchant for hyperbole and her flair for self-dramatization against her. Garcia is wasted as a spaced-out rock star—on a *really* bad-hair day!

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Veteran comedians set good examples for younger TV-film talents to emulate

By Nestor U. Torre

THE LOCAL comedy scene has changed radically in the past decade. In the early days, comedians were faulted for doing slapstick, but at least their comedy was organic and integral, resulting as it did from truly bemusing situations and character and plot development.

These days, however, younger comics dish out unrelated gags and gimmick-oriented jokes. Plotlines are practically nonexistent, and comedy shows and sitcoms just go from one gag to another, regardless of whether they're good, bad or indifferent.

Toilet humor and green jokes have also reared their pointy heads, making the performing scene even more cynical, exploitative and distasteful.

Messy world

In this messy world that local comedy has become, we long for the more creative and integral work that the country's genuine comedians have done over the years. And we hope that, by remembering their example, other comics will see the light and try to be really funny without all that distracting gimmickry and cynicism.

NEPOMUCENO. Rigorous work ethic.

VELOSO. Refuses to do slapstick.

Local comedy King Dolphy is still a good model for younger comedians, despite his age and reduced energy as a performer. He focuses, not on slapstick, but on human foibles, which viewers can readily empathize with.

For his part, Lou Veloso came from the theater and made his mark as a comedian mainly on TV. Due to his theater background, Lou's kind of comedy is more textured and insightful than some.

Chaplinesque

His signature TV character, "Mr. Truman," was Chaplinesque in his wry observations and refusal to do slapstick.

That goes double for Willie Nepomuceno, the country's top impersonator. Willie's impersonations are funny because they aren't just physically precise, but because they capture the very hearts of the celebrities and political personalities he's impersonating.

Willie's work may look easy and breezy, but it's truly challenging and time-consuming. He devotes many hours to observing his subjects, and analyzing their voices, mannerisms, and even their thought processes.

Willie Nep is a good example for younger comedians not because we want all of them to become impersonators, but because his rigorous work ethic should convince them that good comedy has to be really worked at—not simply done for a lazy lark!

Lohan wants smooth transition to mature roles

FROM *Kristine Delgado*: "I want to know more about Lindsay Lohan. Is it true she and Hilary Duff are fighting? "

You're in luck, Kristine. Seventeen-year-old Lindsay Lohan's "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen" opened this week in local theaters. As the 5'5" teen princess delights her pubescent fans here, another of her movies, "Mean Girls," opened early this week at the top of the U.S. box-office.

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

60 TV commercials

Lohan began her career as a Ford model-at age 3! She appeared in over 60 TV commercials.

Then, she made her acting debut on the TV soap, "Another World," before she was cast as estranged twins in Disney's "The Parent Trap." Her performance in the movie won her a Young Artist award in 1999. And she was a "straight-A" student in school!

She held her own opposite co-star Jamie Lee Curtis in the "Freaky Friday" remake. "Confessions" drew scathing reviews, but her delightful performance was singularly praised.

Great reviews

"Mean Girls," on the other hand, opened to great reviews, *and* is currently raking it in at the box-office.

LOHAN. Started modeling at three.

Next, Lohan will be seen as a gifted drama student from a poor family in "Dramarama." She wants a smooth transition—like Kirsten Dunst and Christina Ricci's—from playing teen characters to portraying more mature, adult roles.

As for Lindsay's rivalry with Hilary, the feud was not only for the crown for teen pop stardom. The ruckus came to a head when Duff attempted to have Lohan ejected at the Hollywood premiere of "Cheaper by the Dozen." The reason for the feud? Pop heartthrob Aaron Carter! The young stars became enemies after they discovered that they were apparently dating Nick's younger brother at the same time!

Petty

But, the good-natured Lohan wanted to patch things up with Hilary—fast! She thought it was petty to be fighting over a boy. She clarified that she broke up with Aaron a few months before Carter and Duff started dating.

So, at a taping of MTV's "TRL," the teenage drama queen unabashedly confessed: "I have no problem with Hilary. Maybe, she has a problem with me, but I don't think she should. I love you, Hilary Duff!" And, abruptly, the war between the teen queens ended!

With a little help from my friends

By Behn Cervantes

I QUICKLY gave a positive reply when Labor Attache Jalilo de la Torre requested me to handle a drama workshop for Filipino overseas workers in Tel Aviv. "Tel Aviv" as in Israel, I asked almost out of breath?—As in Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall and all? Yes!

Of course, I would go! To visit that part of the world has been a longtime dream. In fact, I underlined the plan as a "have-to" for next year. Now, I was more than six months ahead of schedule. I was thrilled, indeed. Besides, this planned workshop was in line with my advocacy for outreach work.

Fragmented

Three years ago, Jalilo de la Torre, a former UP Repertory Company actor was working as assistant labor attache in Hong Kong.

He noted that the Filipino workers there tended to be fragmented because of divisive competitions the community would regularly sponsor—beauty contests, basketball games, etc. Why not drama as an alternative, he asked.

Theater, after all, is essentially about collaborative effort and respect for everyone's contribution. I flew to the Crown Colony for a month to hold a workshop for the workers there.

Jolly is now the Labor Attache in Tel Aviv. He told me I could have an assistant— Leo Mark Martinez from Dumaguete. Great!

Commitment

When Jolly had gotten my commitment, however, he confessed that the group there had already decided that final project would be—a fashion show. "A what?" I almost yelped. "Ahh . . . a fashion show," Jolly reiterated.

A very pregnant silence was my initial response. He was worried I would turn down the offer because I would consider a fashion show irrelevant and not worth the trip.

I quickly recovered from the minor shock and calmly told him, "Okay, let's turn this into a good thing. Let's trace Philippine attire from the pre-Hispanic period to today, showing the influences of Spain and America, as well as China, India and Muslim culture. —With costumes we could whip up, with a little help from my friends!

Historical show

"We can intersperse this historical show with appropriate songs and dances performed by existing troupes there. I could include scenes from plays by National Artists Nick Joaquin, Severino Montano and Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero to highlight the cultural conflicts."

I was now getting excited with the possibilities of a cultural-historical-musical fashion show. *Aluhalo?* Why not, it's a Filipino delicacy, *'di ba?* ***(To be concluded)***

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 8 – MAY 14

CH									
	6:30 Star in A Million 7:30 TV Patrol 8:00 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 9:00 Home Along da Airport 10:00 Victim 11:00 Kontrobersiya 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 National Geographic 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Sing Galing 10:00 Lente 11:00 ABC Treats	6:00 Starstruck Kids 7:00 Imbestigador 8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10:30 Celebrity Turns 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	6:00 Daring Talk 7:00 Brag 8:00 Hatol ng Bayan 9:00 Opinyon at Desisyon (Replay) 10:00 Global Family Series 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	6:00 Aglad Reports 6:30 Screen Savers 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Car Guy 8:30 DWTV Journa 9:00 Ang Tamang Daa 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 The Weekend News	6:00 15th Mitsubishi Lancer Int'l Juniors Tennis Championships 9:00 Go For Gold 11:00 Unlimited Diving	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Viva Cine Idols *Madaling Mamatay, Mahirap Mabuhay*	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 K! 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 May Puso ang Balas 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 URRC TV	6:00 Home Shopping Network 7:00 Retro TV (replay) 8:00 Legacy of Hero 9:00 In This Corner 10:00 Global Family Series 11:00 MTV Filler 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Sponge Bob 6:30 Mr Bean 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Spin City 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Crossing Over with John	6:00 Captured 6:30 Fresh Gear 7:00 Convergence 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 New Yankee Workst 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Star Circle Quest 7:45 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:15 Marina 8:45 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:15 It Might Be You 9:45 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Dial M	6:00 American Idol 7:00 Gagitters 8:00 Friends 8:30 Single 9:00 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 9:30 Bulilay Beauty Queen 10:00 INQ TV 10:15 Big News 11:00 Fireworks	6:15 24 Oras 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8:00 Te Amo 8:30 Love Letter 9:00 Hanggang Kailan 9:30 Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I Witness!	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 The Agency 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 Alebe	6:30 NBA Jam 7:00 WWE Smackdown 8:00 NBA Game 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 The Chronicle 7:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Convergence 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
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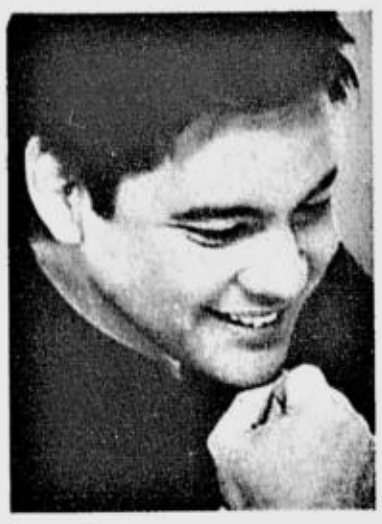


NIEVERA. Month-long stint at Onstage.

Unique love story on the Hallmark Channel

MORE promising films to be screened on the Hallmark Channel this month: May 20, "Picking Up and Dropping Off," a unique love story that involves two single parents (Scott Wolf and Amanda Detmer).

May 27, "D.C. 9-11: Time of Crisis," a saga set in the White House, as the US faces the worst terrorist attack within its shores. Timothy Bottoms plays President George W. Bush.

Continuing their successful runs on Hallmark are the channel's popular TV shows: "Adoption" (Wednesday), "Judging Amy" (Monday), "Mysterious Ways (Tuesday), "The Guardian" (Thursday) and "Agency" (Friday).

'Tough Crowd'

After "conquering" Las Vegas with his two-month show at the Golden Nugget, and touring his Las Vegas show in the US this month, Martin Nievera is headlining a month-long musical stint, titled "Tough Crowd," at Onstage Greenbelt this June.

MONTAGE

The concert series' title, in effect, puts Martin's fans on the spot. He explains: "I want them to prove that they aren't difficult to entertain. In general, Filipino audiences are harder to please than the ones I perform for abroad. In Las Vegas, they just want to be entertained."

For his June shows, Martin promises to deliver "less conversation, more action." And he isn't announcing his guests in advance, because he wants his audience to be surprised. "Tough Crowd" will have performances on June 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26. Call 891-5610 or 551-7777.

'Be the Creature'

Every Monday at 7 p.m., the National Geographic Channel telecasts "Be the Creature," a reality challenge show that has brothers Chris and Martin Kratt living with different wild animals, like grizzly bears, elephants and giant otters.

With only minimal survival gear, they travel to remote wilderness areas to experience the world as animals do, and thus help viewers increase their understanding of the wild creatures' lifestyles.

Movies on TV

On HBO, May 8 at 10:25 p.m., "A Beautiful Mind." May 9 at 12:30 p.m., "The Fellowship of the Ring." May 10 at 10:30 p.m., "Big Fat Liar." May 11 at 2 p.m., "Save the Last Dance." May 12 at 10:50 p.m., "The Salton Sea." May 13 at 4:15 p.m., "Funny Farm." May 14 at 10:30 p.m., "Six Feet Under."

On Cinemax, May 8 at 2:15 p.m., "The Pledge." May 9 at 9:15 a.m., "The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad." May 10 at 5:45 p.m., "A Death in the Family." May 11 at 5:15 p.m., "Jason and the Argonauts." May 12 at 1:40 a.m., "Gia." May 13 at 8 a.m., "The Diary of Ellen Rimbauer." May 14 1:45 p.m., "Heart and Souls."

Friends share fond memories of Lino Brocka

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

AFTER Mitch Valdes, it was Norma Japitana's turn to wax nostalgic about Lino Brocka at our group's recent tribute to the acclaimed and much-missed film icon.

Norma J's account touched Lino's friends to the core because it was practically an eyewitness account of his final day.

She recalled that, the day he died, Lino was shooting scenes for a film with Malu Barry, one of her talents. Shooting started at 2 p.m. and Lino was so busy, Norma J remembers, "*na ginawa niya akong* secretary.

Good time

"After the shoot, I asked him to go to Spindle, and he did. He had a good time with his group and left shortly after midnight.

"At 1:30 a.m.," Norma J recounted somberly, "I got a call—about his accident."

A hush fell on the group. But Norma J boosted our spirits by sharing more pleasant memories of her long association with Lino.

One of her little "secrets" had to do with Lino's impending Hollywood career as a filmmaker. Lino had told her about the international offers he was getting and confessed, "I'm very bad with money—will you help me?"

Of course, Norma J said yes. But it was not to be…

For her part, Au Cobarrubias recalled the plays Lino had directed for her production group, with the Cobarrubias family's Hotel Mirador as venue.

"It was great working with Lino, because he was always so creative. He was a hard worker, constantly productive, but he was also a lot of fun!

Transparent

"Above all, he was *taong-tao*. And he was always transparent. That's why, others were 'forced' to be honest with him, as well. And he was loyal! You couldn't say no to him, because you knew he had no agenda. He was all *puso*—selfless!"

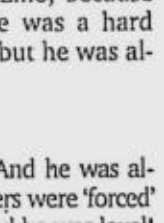
Lollie Mara worked with Au at Mirador, and soon, also became friends with Lino. In fact, "He was among the first who put it in my mind that I could become an actress. *'Dapat kang artista,'* he told me one fine day, and of course, I protested 'But, I don't know how!'

"His rejoinder to that was one for the books: 'But you're already acting!'

"Lino put me in his film, 'Biktima.' He gave me the courage. And I'm still acting, to this day."

Sourcing recipes

WORD OF MOUTH



Sandy Daza

"NO matter how delicious a dish is, if it's served too often, your family will get tired of it." That's what I often tell my televiewers on my show, "Cooking With Sandy." I know, because I do the cooking at home.

What's the solution? Research! I get ideas for dishes from friends, cooking shows, the Internet and magazines. Not all sources are reliable, though. There are many that don't give accurate recipes or portions.

And some friends aren't willing to share their recipes. Don't feel offended. (*swapang lang yon*, just kidding) There *really* are some treasured recipes that should be kept secret. Respect that!

Search

My search for the most interesting recipes is never-ending. In the Philippines, there are two publications I make sure I have copies of: Food and Cook magazines. Their editors, Norma Chikiamco and Nancy Reyes, are food fanatics in constant search for something new, interesting or delicious to share with their readers.

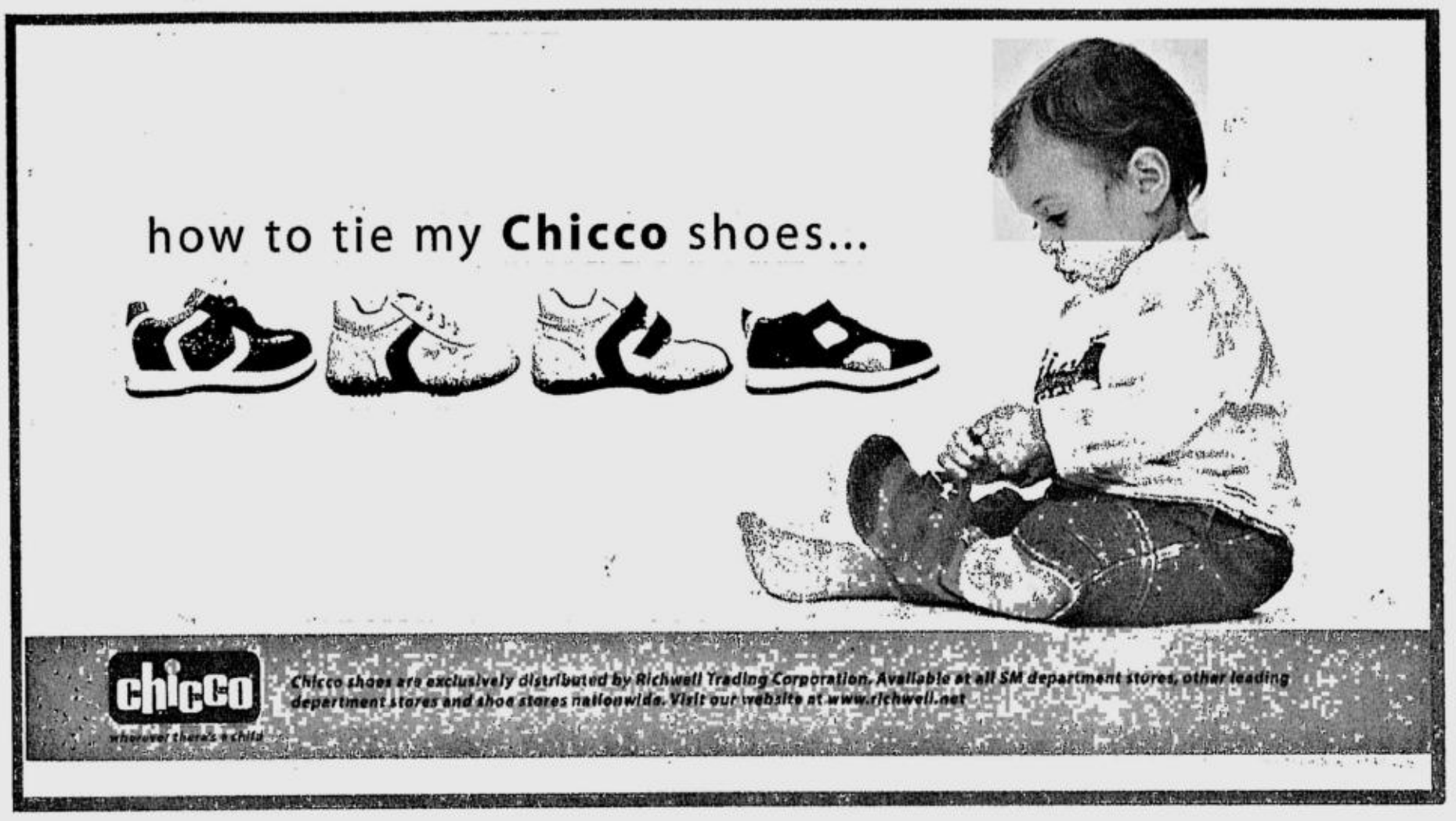
Food magazine has evolved into a great source of simple and doable recipes, mostly for home-cooked dishes that anyone who can read will be able to do at home. Most of their ingredients are inexpensive and easy to find, and instructions are easy to follow.

Tried and tested

Recently, I got a copy of Food magazine with 150 recipes, and also the Best Food magazine issue. Both issues are full of very interesting recipes that have been tried and tested, and given the go signal by Omay Chikiamco. I am very impressed with the quality of the magazine and the value of its content. Congratulations to Ernie and Omay!

Happy cooking!

Comments and suggestions? Email me at sandydaza@shaw.ca



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SATURDAY *special*

Brosnan sheds Bond image in 'Laws of Attraction'

BROSNAN. Shifts effortlessly from spy to lawyer.

LOS ANGELES—Pierce Brosnan has tangled with villains as a super agent, but the James Bond star finally meets his match in Julianne Moore in the romantic comedy, "Laws of Attraction."

In the film, they play rival high-powered divorce lawyers who reluctantly fall for each other amid the messy, matrimonial carnage of their opposing clients. Brosnan impresses with the effortless way he has shifted from spy to lawyer. *Reuters*

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I'm A Slave 4 U	100248
Iris	100249
Just Like A Pill	100251
Nice To Know You	100252
Superman	100254
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The Hardest Thing	100256
There You'll Be	100257
Together Again	100258
Unbreak My Heart	100259

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Ibulong Sa Hangin	100129
Just Believe	100131
Sa Iyo	100134
Twin Hearts	100135
We Are Tomorrow	100136
Bulaklak	100137
Hotbabes	100138
Oops Ay	100139
Umaaraw Umuulan	100140
So Wonderful	100220
Habang May Buhay	100221
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Sasakyan Kita	100223
Tila	100224
Baliw	100225

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Chain Saw	100351
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Wolves Howling	100356
Female Hilarious Laughter	100104
Horror Stinger	100105
Large Burp	100106
Large Fart	100107
Loud Funny Snoring	100108
Loud Snoring and Breathing	100109
Low Throaty Laugh	100110
Male Belly Laugh	100111
War	100112
Witch's Laugh	100113
Child Funny Sneeze	100153
Female Belly Laugh	100154
Female Karate Yell	100155
Female Laughter with Snorting	100156
Funny Rapid Hiccupping	100157
Ghost	100158
Large Dog Barking	100159
Loud Snorty Snoring	100160
Male Karate Yell	100161
Male Quick Karate Yells	100162

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Have A Banana	100345
Lily Pad Waltz	100346

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Orange and Lemons	ID NO.
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My Butterfly	100317
She's Leaving Home	100318
Splendid Love Song	100319
When I'm With You	100320
Boy Elroy	ID NO.
Diego's Blues	100321
Over You	100322
Post It	100323
Timex	100324
All Right	100325
	ID NO.
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Buwan	100298
All Right	100325
country_fried_chikiting	100302
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Pati Ang Puso Ko Iginapos Mo Pa Rin	100150
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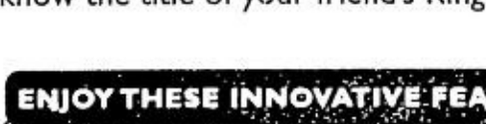

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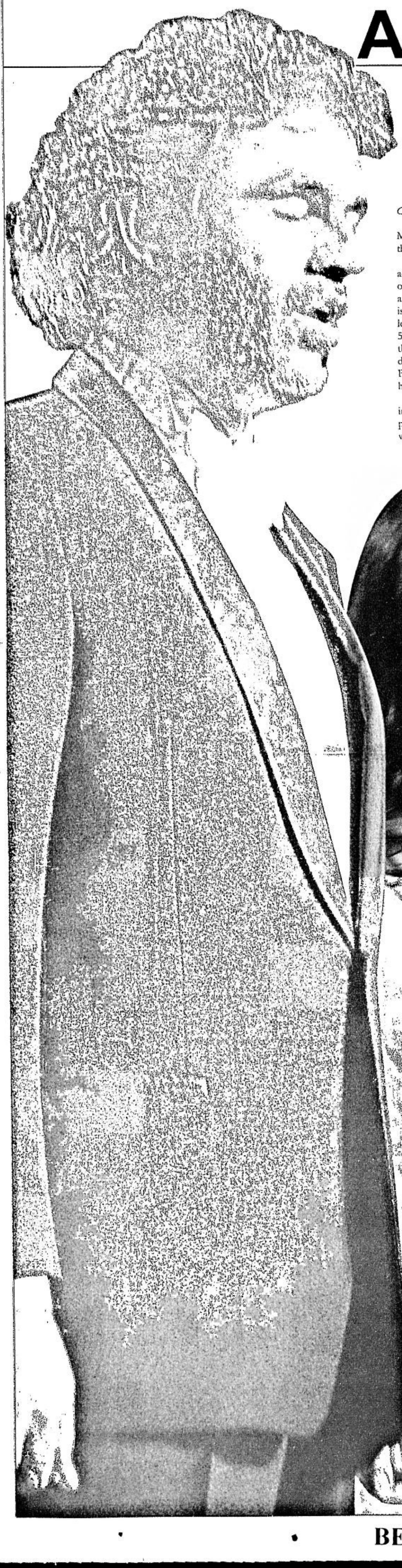


Captivating. Enchanting. Awe-inspiring.

Legendary performer Maestro Andrea Bocelli enthralled Manila audiences in a once in a lifetime performance, arguably the most anticipated concert event of the year.

Globe Platinum, together with FormArt, Father Pio Lend-a-Hand Foundation and ABS CBN, brought the music and magic of this celebrated tenor who, for a brief moment, brought light and inspiration to all who heard him sing. And what a voice! He is considered as one of the great tenors of the century. He is a leading figure of the Operatic world and has sold an astounding 50 million cds worldwide. Andrea Bocelli has been credited to the growing popularity of classical opera by collaborating with a diverse set of artists, from U2's Bono, Celine Dion, Sarah Brightman, to the great Luciano Pavarotti who first discovered his talent.

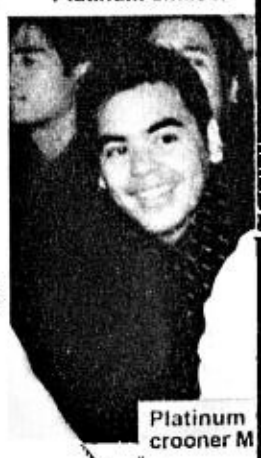
This gifted artist from Tuscany is not only known for his immense talent, but also for his benevolence and support for philanthropic causes. Singing from the heart, he considers himself very privileged to sing for disadvantaged kids. His Manila concert, part of his Asia and Oceana tour for 2004, will benefi institutions, namely Bantay Bata 163, the Mt. Pina Temple Shrine Foundation, the Philippine Nation the Ophtalmological Foundation of the Philippines, Foundation for the Blind, and the Ateneo de Manil '79 Foundation.

The Araneta Coliseum made history once concert venue of Andrea Bocelli in Manila, his firs Joining him were the superb talents of soprano Mari and the all-Filipino Father Pio Symphony Orches baton of Marcello Rota. Filling the arena to the rat Bocelli was welcomed with enthused applause from by just entering the stage. After singing barely a few repertoire, the audience was already in high spirits more mesmerized by his rendition of *Ave Ma* thundering applause. Bocelli's *O Sole Mio* even had audience singing along with him. But the audience w spellbound with *The Prayer* and *Con Te Partiro* whic during his two encores. The night was filled with sp

Maestro Marcello Rota creates magic with his baton.

Globe Platinum VIPs Bettin luster to the exclusive p

Globe Platinum subscri Gary Valenciano and w Angeli Pangilinan flash t Platinum smiles.



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lendid music

that sent the audience endlessly clapping in approval, earning the Maestro four standing ovations and three encores. His music knows no boundaries and for two and a half hours, the magnificent voice regaled and united Filipinos from all walks of life.

Globe Platinum members and Manila's *crème de la crème*, led by concert organizer **Mrs. Rose Marie Arenas, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Ambassador of Italy Umberto Colesanti, Ambassador of Argentina Mario Schuff, Ambassador of Chile Jorge Montero, Ambassador of Portugal Caetano De Silva, Commissioner Haydee Yorac, Ambassador Jose Ampeso, Former First Lady Imelda Marcos, House Speaker and Mrs. Jose de Venecia, Former DTI Secretary Mar Roxas,** ABS-CBN's **Gabby Lopez,** *Bantay Bata's* **Gina Lopez, DILG Secretary Joey Lina, Senator Noli de Castro, Conrado de Quiros, Teodoro Benigno, Korina Sanchez, Pitoy Moreno,** and **Rajo Laurel** were among those who were treated to an unforgettable evening of beautiful and inspiring music.

One of the lucky ones who experienced Bocelli's magnificent gift of voice was Globe Platinum subscriber **Rogelio Sarmiento.** A business executive from Davao, Sarmiento and his daughter Nikki were treated by Globe Platinum to choice vantage spots that got them to enjoy their favorite Bocelli songs. Even before the concert, he already had tickets which he later on sold to a friend. "We already had tickets to the concert because my daughter wanted to watch it. We are very thankful for the exclusive treat Globe Platinum gave us because watching the concert from our choice seats was much better," Sarmiento said.

Taking time out to enjoy the beauty of our islands, the Bocelli entourage was given Globe Handyphone service phones to help them with their local and international commitments. The entourage experienced Globe's unwavering network strength as they got instant connectivity with contacts in the country as well as those in Italy and Hongkong.

On the eve of his departure, Globe Platinum took part in the exclusive private dinner for Maestro Bocelli at the Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental, Manila. Bidding him farewell were **Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco, Senator and Mrs. Franklin Drilon, Senator Luisa Ejercito, former Finance Secretary** and **Mrs. Jose Isidro Camacho** and **Globe Platinum guests**. Aside from an exquisite menu, which included fine wines and desserts, guests were serenaded yet again by the maestro virtuoso, with excerpts from his concert.

Globe President and CEO Gerry Ablaza thanked Maestro Bocelli for his gracious participation; for baring his soul to the Filipino people who have long waited to hear his magical voice. Andrea Bocelli was presented with a Globe Handyphone as a token of appreciation and for making it possible to bring to life the music of the great masters.

You too can be a part of the esteemed Globe Platinum set if you are an existing subscriber of any Globe Plan with an average monthly usage of P4,000 and up (exclusive of taxes and adjustments) for the last twelve months and with good credit standing. You can also be a Globe Platinum member by getting either a G-Plan or fully consumable G-Flex Plan at P5,000, P7,000, or P10,000 at any Globe Business Center or Hub. Get your Globe Platinum membership now and start experiencing the exclusive privileges it has to offer.

Soprano Maria Luigia Borsi and Maestro Andrea Bocelli bedazzle the audience.

Globe Platinum guests Luis and Libet Virata exude the post-concert afterglow.

Manila welcomed the Maestro with a full house of ecstatic classical music aficionados.

All set to relish Bocelli's beautiful music are House Speaker Jose de Venecia and wife Gina.

Renowned Architect Gerry Contreras and socio-civic patroness Gina Lopez.

Maria Luigia Borsi, Andrea Bocelli, Rose Marie Arenas and Marcello Rota cap the concert with a final bow.

and Sabin Aboitiz add st-concert cocktails

Loyal Globe Platinum subscriber and fashionable equestrienne Toni Leviste with former Batangas Governor Tony Leviste, Naynay Ventura and Joei Leviste-Mangubat.

Maestro Andrea Bocelli flanked by the diplomatic circle's Philippine Ambassador to Italy, H.E. Philippe Lhuillier, Italian Ambassador H.E. Umberto Colesanti together with Amparito and Michel Lhuillier.

Former First Lady Imelda Marcos in full regalia

The Maestro with the top honcho of Globe Telecom Gerry Ablaza.

nember JM Rodriguez and rtin Nievera enjoy the show.

Juliet Genio, Globe Platinum Senior Marketing Manager Kristelle Dizon, Baby Arenas and Innove President, Gil Genio in a tete-a-tete after the Maestro's performance.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and wife Mita enjoying Globe Platinum's pre-concert cocktails.

Globe's Nonie Busuego with one of Globe Platinum's icons, Rajo Laurel.

Globe
PLATINUM

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BIRTHDAY _____ (mm/dd/yy) SPOUSE NAME _____
_____ HOME CONTACT NO. _____ MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
OFFICE/COMPANY NAME _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____ (No. / Street)
_____ (Barangay)
_____ (City / Zip Code)
BUSINESS TEL NO. _____
PREFERRED BILLING ADDRESS ☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE
CREDIT CARD NAME
☐ BPI ☐ Citibank ☐ Diners Club
☐ Equitable ☐ Unicard ☐ Standard Chartered
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EXPIRY DATE _____ 3 Digits at the Back of Card _____

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Installment Term ☐ 3 ☐ 6 ☐ 9 ☐ 12 months
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☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE ☐ OTHERS _____
Choice Handset _____
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	Consumable Amount	Free SMS	GHP-GHP	GHP-non-GHP
GFlex 800	₱ 800	200	₱ 6.50	₱ 7.00
GFlex 1,200	₱ 1,200	250	₱ 6.00	₱ 6.50
GFlex 1,800	₱ 1,800	300	₱ 5.00	₱ 6.00
GFlex 2,500	₱ 2,500	350	₱ 4.50	₱ 5.50
GFlex 3,500	₱ 3,500	400	₱ 4.00	₱ 4.50
GFlex 5,000	₱ 5,000	400	₱ 4.00	₱ 4.50
GFlex 7,000	₱ 7,000	600	₱ 4.00	₱ 4.50
GFlex 10,000	₱ 10,000	900	₱ 4.00	₱ 4.50

Roaming charges are chargeable to the consumable amount of G-Flex Plan 5000 and up

	MSF	Free Text	Free Mins.	GHP-GHP	GHP-non-GHP
GText	₱ 500	500	20	₱ 6.00	₱ 7.50
GMix	₱ 800	350	100	₱ 5.50	₱ 7.00
GTalk	₱ 1,200	350	210	₱ 5.00	₱ 6.50
GTalk Plus	₱ 1,800	450	350	₱ 4.50	₱ 6.00
GMatch	₱ 2,500	550	500	₱ 4.00	₱ 5.50
GMax	₱ 3,500	650	750	₱ 3.50	₱ 4.50
Platinum	₱ 5,000	650	1,100	₱ 3.50	₱ 4.50
Platinum	₱ 7,000	600	1,300	₱ 3.50	₱ 4.50
Platinum	₱ 10,000	1,200	1,800	₱ 3.50	₱ 4.50

How to subscribe: Bring valid ID, proof of billing address and financial documents (amount of which should be commensurate to the plan and number of lines applied for).

Conditions: Subject to a two-year subscription lock. Closure of plan under 24 months is subject to a termination fee of P10,000, or handset price, whichever is higher.

*The CD titles above do not correspond to the Nokia categories in the website.

Promo Period: May 6 - May 31, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1390, Series of 2004.

SATURDAY Special

Karel Marquez
successfully combines studies and show biz

By Andy Bais

MARQUEZ. Education over stardom.

STUDIES and a show biz career *can* mix. This has been proven by popular MYX VJ, actress, singer and commercial model Karel Marquez, who recently finished high school while religiously attending to her show biz commitments. "It's hard work, but I can't complain. It was my childhood dream to be in show business," the 17-year-old charmer beams.

Karel, daughter of singer-actress Pinky Marquez, admits that she's shy. "But I have always wanted to perform. My fondest wish before was to appear in 'Gmik,' *maski* extra *lang*," she laughs.

Commercial

Karel's appearance in a soft drink commercial paved the way for her entry in show business. ABS-CBN got her to audition for a role in a youth-oriented show.

Then, she landed a role in "Berks" that almost cost her the now popular Ponds face powder commercial.

"I played a *contravida* in the show, so the people at Ponds had second thoughts about getting me. *Buti na lang, nagbago ang* character *ko, naging mabait*," she smiles.

She has finished shooting four other Ponds commercials. "Naging successful *kasi ang* first *ko, kaya* it has now become a series. *Nag*-quadruple *daw ang* sales *ng* product," she proudly shares.

Busy schedule

Although she is free from school this summer, Karel still keeps a busy schedule. She does the "field reports" in "Wazzup, Wazzup," a comedy news show on MYX Ch 23. She also tapes regularly for MYX as VJ. Anytime now, she will start shooting her second movie for Star Cinema, "Because of You."

But, what excites her most is her singing stint at the newly-opened Dish at ABS-CBN, where she is the featured artist every Thursday for the month of May. "This is my first time to sing a number of songs in one night. I will be singing alone, backed up by a band," she enthuses.

Karel has become popular, but she doesn't allow it to go to her head. "My looks may have improved, but *'ugali*-wise,' I'm still the same. I still go out with my friends—nothing has changed, except *marami na ang nakakakilala sa akin*."

The future? "I want to put up my own business. Show biz is *not* forever!"

Celebrating Lala

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

LALA Castillo was the principal of the grade school where my three daughters went. She retired after 22 years of mothering other people's children. —And she had to take care of her own brood of four, as well!

Teacher

Lala is, first and foremost, a teacher. But, she didn't teach her children. She tried once, but she got uptight about it. So, she gave it up.

Lala said: "Allow life to teach children. They will swim when they have to. That way, they will learn what the books will never be able to teach them."

For Lala, there is no end to mothering. One of her greatest pleasures is "bringing my daughter Czarina to the Lourdes Hospital (where she is a medical intern), and my daughter, Yvette, to her office."

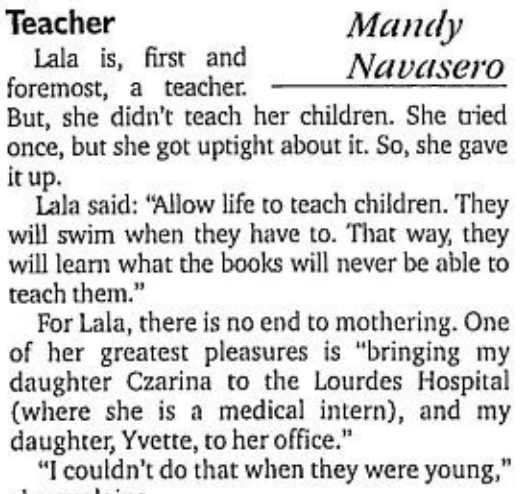
"I couldn't do that when they were young," she explains.

New meaning

A widow now after a happy marriage of almost 35 years, motherhood has taken on a new meaning for her.

"My four children are my life now—each one has a little bit of their father in them. I want to make sure that they lead good lives," she beams.

E-mail the author at mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph or mandynavaseropro@yahoo.com



LALA Castillo, right, with husband Joe.

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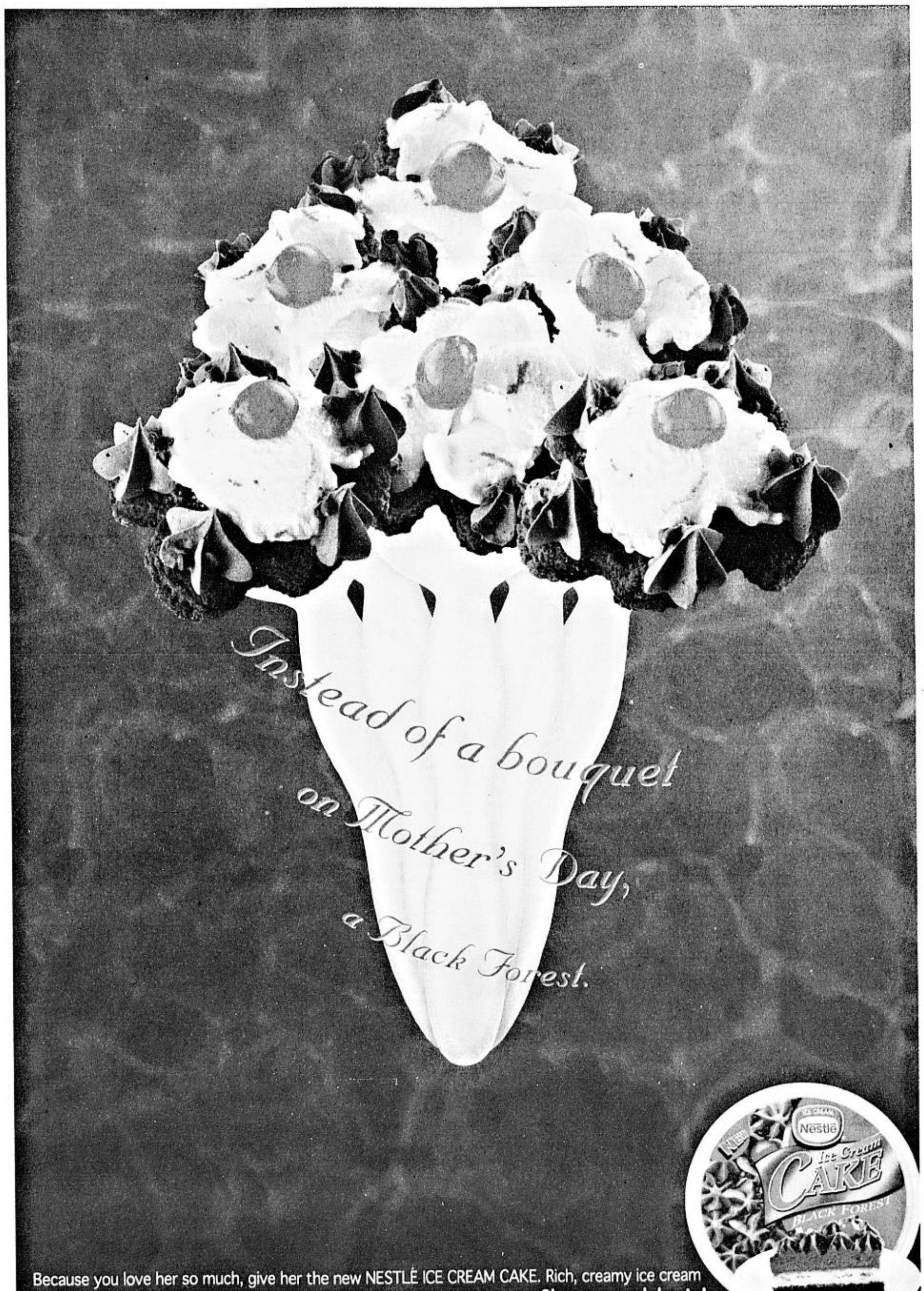

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Karel Marquez
successfully combines and shows it

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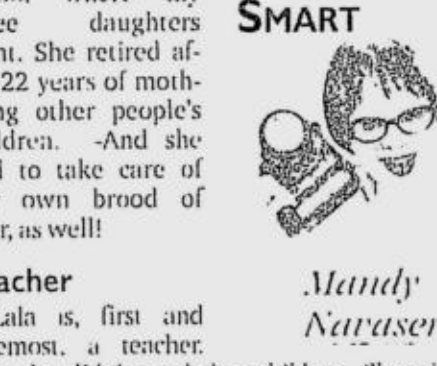

LALA Castillo, right, with husband Joe.

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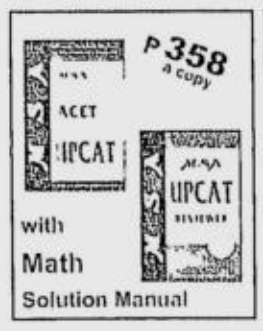

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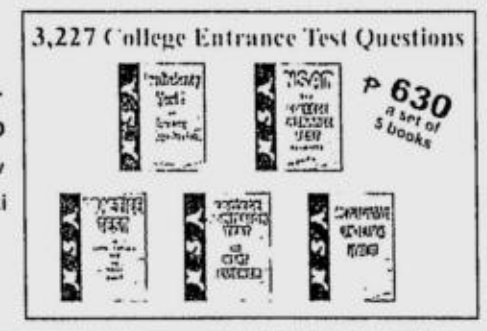

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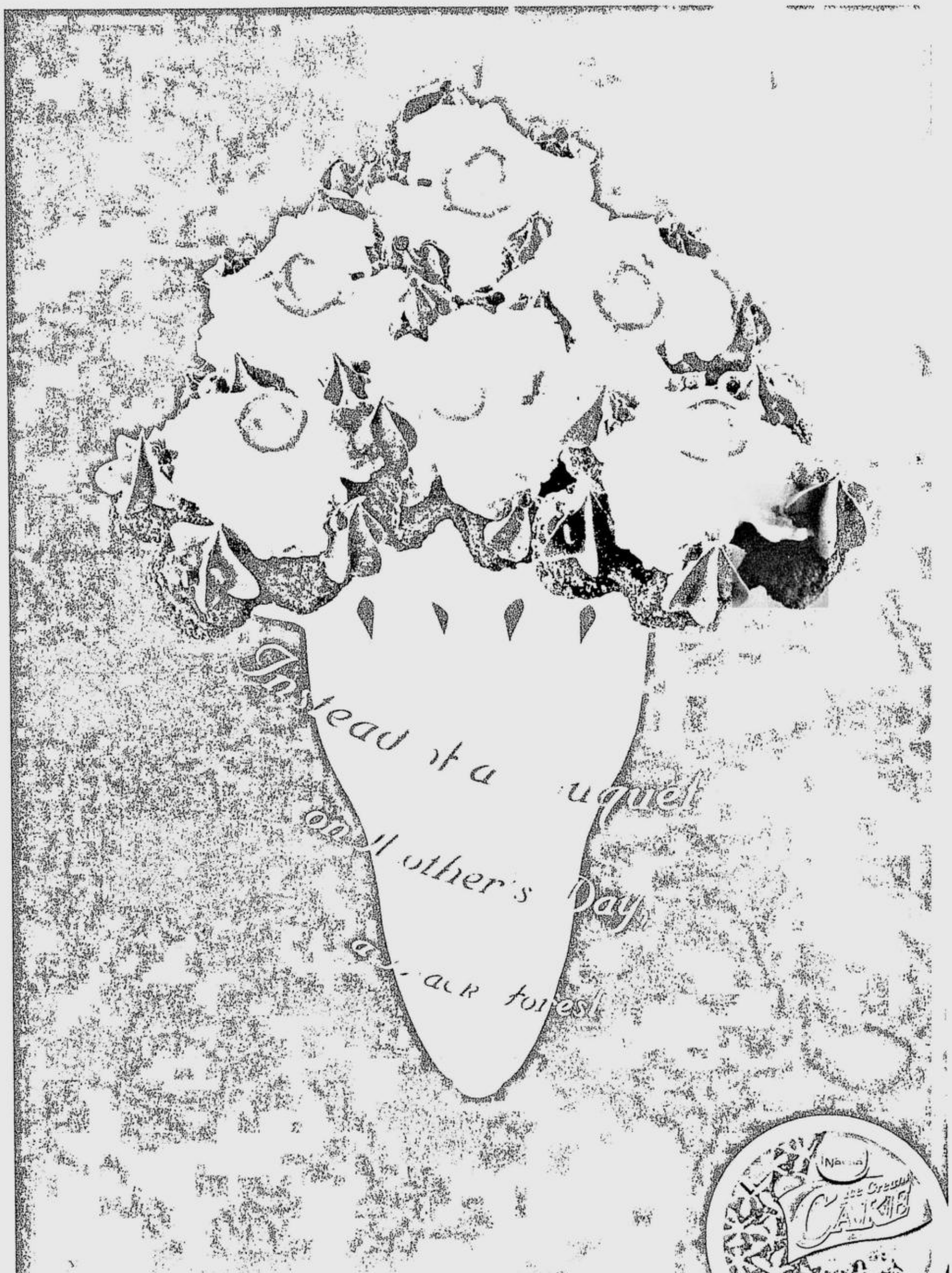

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- Promo period: May 7-31, 2004.

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- Moms can further subscribe to Daily Motherly Tips by texting MOM to 386.
- Then register by texting in MOM REG <NAME>/<ADDRESS>/<BIRTHDATE> and send to 386 for entries to be valid.
- Moms who subscribe to Daily Motherly Tips between May 7-31 will earn one raffle entry.
- P2.50 per download.
- Those who stay subscribed until May 31, 2004 get a chance to win P25,000.00
- Those who opt-out can text MOM STOP to 386 but will not qualify for the raffle.
- Winner will be drawn via electronic raffle on Monday, June 7, 2004 at 2:00pm.
- Winner will be formally notified via phone call and registered mail.
- Prizes may be claimed after a 3-day allowance to check winner's eligibility (consanguinity or affinity and Smart subscriber account standing).
- Employees of Nestle Philippines, Inc., Smart Communications, Inc., Mobile Concepts Asia, Inc., their advertising agencies, as well as relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.
- Winner may claim prizes up to 60 days from date of notification.
- In claiming prizes, winner must present the following:
  • mobile phone with Smart SIM • valid ID • proof of address
- Promo available for Greater Manila Area only.
- Prize is tax free.

Participating Establishments:
• Nestle Ice Cream Parlor - Aurora
• Nestle Ice Cream Parlor - EDSA Shangri-La
• Nestle Ice Cream Parlor - Powerplant Mall
• Nestlé Ice Cream Parlor - Festival Mall

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0226 Series of 2004

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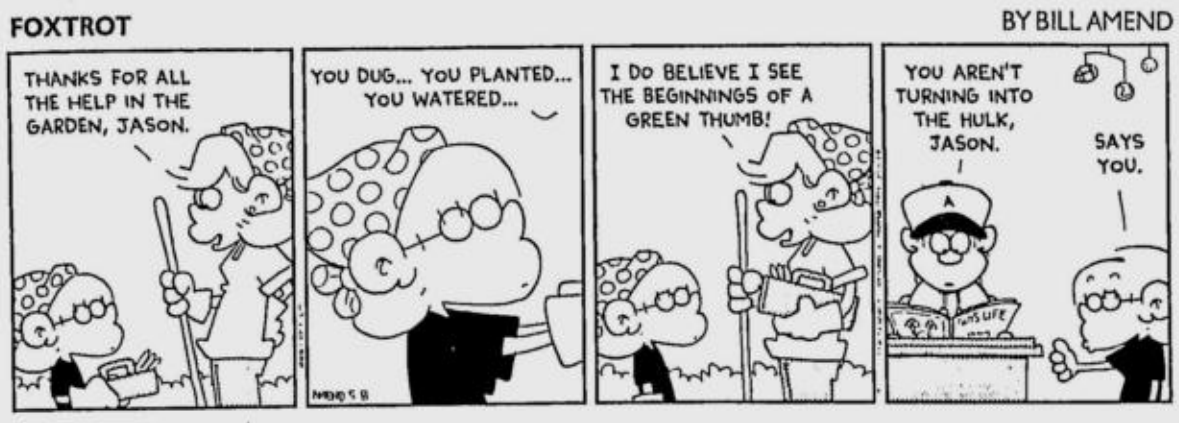
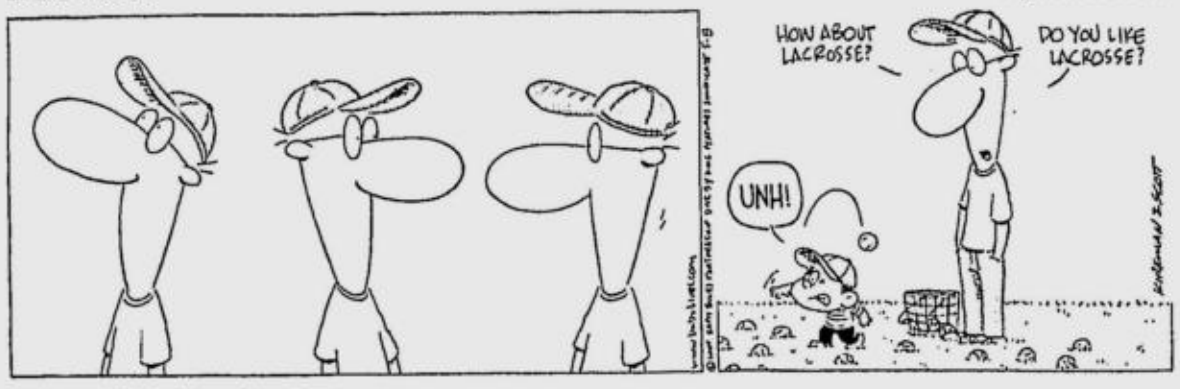


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

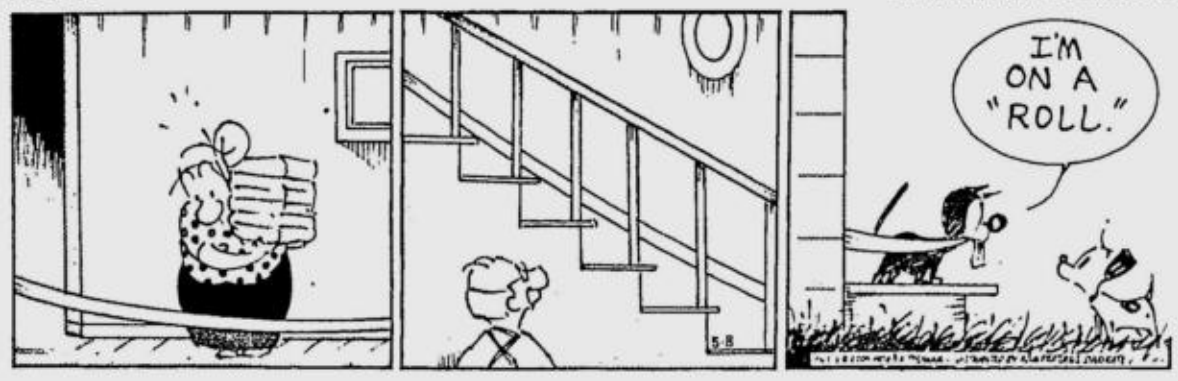
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You can be a fearless fighter for what you want. You're not reticent about expressing your ideas and opinions. Nevertheless, you're not reckless, either. You are a caring, careful person, and you're extremely convincing when you want to be. You enjoy beauty in all your surroundings. Exciting, fresh beginnings await you!
Birthdate of: Melissa Gilbert, actress; Enrique Iglesias, singer; Harry S. Truman, 33rd US president.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Work hard to solidify your home. Smoothen ruffled feathers with family members. Make it so that your domestic scene gives you a warm feeling in your tummy.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're not an impulsive person. You like to give matters a sober second thought. Nevertheless, think about how your daily environment might be changing in some way.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): At this stage in your life, it's important for you to have a value system that you can count on. You need a touchstone to help you make decisions now and in the future.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have to deal with the realities of responsibilities, ownership and obligations now. It's time to grow up! Just accept what is expected of you and move on.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Slowly, you're getting used to the idea that you have to give some things up now. Maybe not this week; maybe not this month; maybe not even this year—but soon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The scope of your responsibilities has definitely deepened and broadened in the past few years. People respect you more now. Continue to accomplish as much as you can.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): There's no question that this year brings a moment of truth for you. You see what is working; you see what is not. Cut your losses. Go with your successes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's important that you continue to work hard, because your career is beautifully favored in the next few years! Effort in one direction will definitely bring you benefit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Some of you are forced to get along with less now. This is a time of testing. Fortunately, lucky Jupiter beautifully favors your career for this year.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Relationships might be difficult now. Partnerships that are more trouble than they're worth will fall by the wayside.

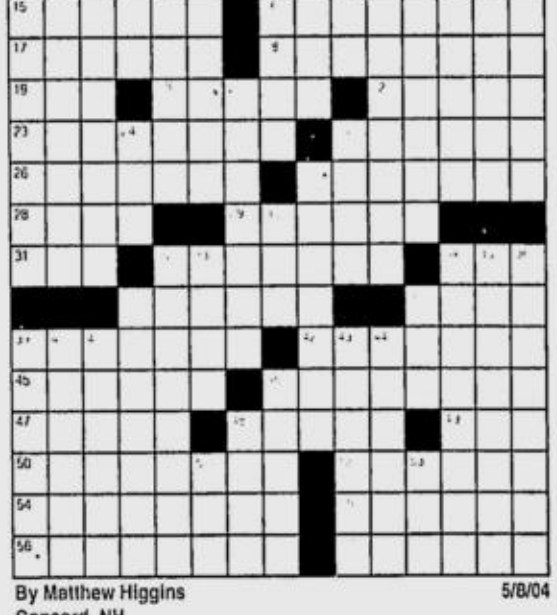
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Be encouraged by the knowledge that all your hard work will pay off in the immediate future. Don't slack off now. Your rewards will definitely come to you!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Increased responsibilities with children, plus a nagging doubt about your place in the universe limits your scope of activities right now. Don't worry. In a year, everything changes.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Vigorous conflict
7 Ojibwa
15 Sharp, rugged ridges
16 Lowered in dignity
17 Chip or Dale
18 Repeated
19 Astronaut Grissom
20 Seasonal song
22 Derisive
23 1862 battlefield
25 Drudge
26 Burned by hot liquid
27 Men on base
28 Withered
29 Cold pack
31 Forerunner of the CIA
32 Provisions in a document
34 For each
37 Presley hit, "In the ___"
38 Categorized groups
39 Red phone
42 Relating to part of the ear
45 Wedding-party members
46 Dinner hour
47 Much inclined
48 Savory
49 Immoral misdeed
50 Destructive insects
52 Constituent of natural gas
54 State of partial disability
55 Dodecanese island
56 Stretch
57 Passover meals

DOWN
1 Calm area of the Atlantic
2 Defeats decisively
3 Communist symbols
4 Israel or Jacob follower
5 Moved stolen property
6 Heir's inheritance
7 Type of portable memory
8 Cad
9 Mischievous child
10 Assumed identities
11 Causing emotional distress
12 Store as fodder
13 Gardener, often
14 European vipers
21 Glow with joy
24 Seine sight
25 Toothpaste container
27 Does some cobbling
30 Slice
32 Sounding like a small bird
33 Eye part
34 Defensive stake fence
35 Investigator
36 Scarcity
37 Singing club members
38 Steve Martin song, "King ___"
39 Energetic drive
40 Of bone
41 Dynamic leader?
43 Horse operas
44 Actress Dannor
46 Billiards shot
48 Take a sample
51 Brewed drink
53 Mortar carrier



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

5/8/04

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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5/8/04

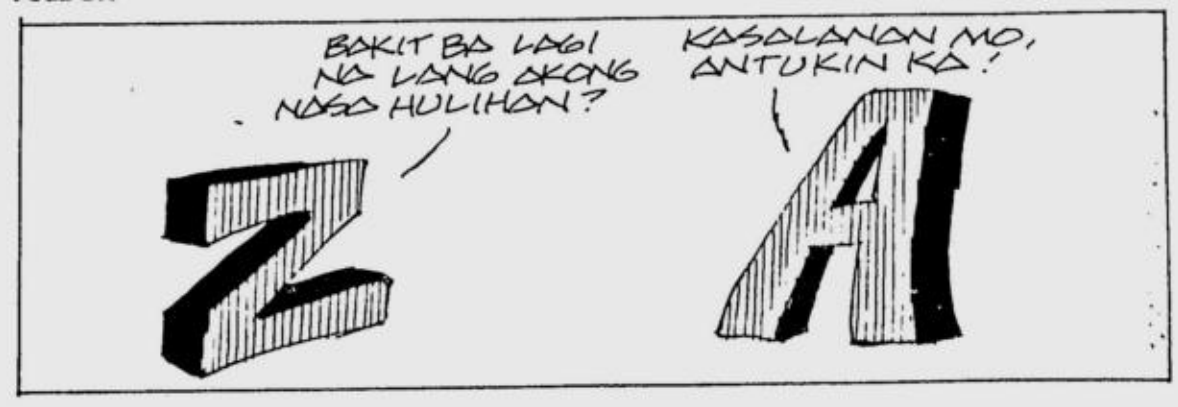
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



FORUM

Who do you think will be the next American Idol?

By Noelani Torre

WATCHING "American Idol" has become a craze in this country. Things are getting tenser with only four finalists left—6-year-old Diana DeGarmo, 19-year-old Fantasia Barrino, 17-year-old Jasmine Trias, and 25-year-old La Toya London.

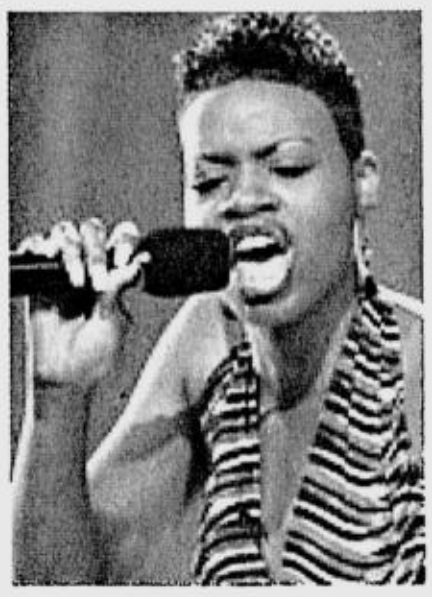
Speculations

Speculations as to who will finally be hailed American Idol have been numerous these past few days, so we decided to ask some of "AI's" avid watchers to share their thoughts:

"*Kahit gustuhin kong manalo si* Jasmine Trias, *hindi siya mananalo. Masyado siyang* sweety-sweety—*parang hindi pa siya* ready. Fantasia Barrino will win, *at si* La Toya London *ang* runner-up.

"*Ka-boses niya si* Aretha Franklin. *'Di ba, sabi ni* Paula Abdul, she's the young Aretha? She's groovy, natural and infectious.

"*Sa* vocal quality *at* performance, *siya ang pinakamagaling*. Her performance of 'Signed, Sealed, Delivered' was her best. *Nag*-standing ovation *pa ang tatlong* judges!"—*Sean Julian Corpuz, Krus na Ligas, UP Diliman*



BARRINO. Young Aretha Franklin.

Weakening

"Jasmine! Yes, I know she's been weakening lately, but I still think she has a chance. Maybe, I'm biased because she's Filipino, but that's not the only reason why I support her. The others don't have her style. The strongest ones—La Toya and Fantasia—have the same style. *Pa*-soul *na pa*-hip-hop. Whereas, *si* Jasmine, she's classic and elegant, *pero* sweet and approachable.

"She's also very pretty. *Hindi sa nanglalait ako*, but the other two, *hindi naman talaga magaganda*. Whatever you say, looks still count. Although, she really has to come up with better performances, otherwise, *hindi siya mananalo*."—*Katrine Marie Sales, Davao City*

Boring

"La Toya London has my vote. Jasmine is getting scared, Fantasia is good, but she is not consistent, and Diana and George are boring. La Toya is not *pa*-effect, but she has real talent. *Wala pa siyang* performance *na pumalpak*.

"I think the judges will consider that. She is also the most professional of the group."—*Mariella Somes, Mandaluyong City*

(To be concluded)

One workshop after another

By Nestor U. Torre

WE didn't really plan to be this busy, but this is turning out to be a particularly hectic summer for us, with numerous workshops and seminars to conduct in different parts of the country.

Last month, we began a Playwright Development Initiative workshop for the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which will culminate at the end of this month with the lab staging of some of the plays written by our workshoppers.

Hectic but productive

From April 23 to 25, we conducted an acting workshop for children for Bibsy Carballo's SNACK. The workshop was hectic but productive, and we discovered some promising child singer-actors who will be featured in our forthcoming productions.

On May 14, we're flying to Zamboanga City to do three different workshops—on TV awareness and usage, scriptwriting for radio and TV, and directing.

At the end of May, we are conducting a three-day seminar for the CBCP on TV awareness and usage, and on how to protect young viewers from irresponsible television. And we are finalizing other courses for Pampanga and Cebu.

As you can imagine, this tight schedule of seminars is exhausting, but we're happy to do it because we're able to help so many people increase their awareness and knowledge.

We're particularly glad when we are asked to conduct seminars outside of Metro Manila, because we know that our provinces have talents that can be productively developed.

We're happy to be part of the process to develop talents all over the country, because we need to reflect all of the cultural prisms in our land, not just those coming from the major cities.

Youngest winner

Our "model" in all this is what happened to Fil-Am playwright Han Ong. Not many Filipinos knew him, but he is internationally famous because he is the youngest winner of the McArthur "Genius" award, with a most impressive cash component of $250,000.

Our point is, when Han Ong was living as a youth in the Philippines, his playwriting talent was totally unrecognized, and unencouraged. It had to take his moving to the States for his outstanding playwriting talent to be discovered, developed and honored.

We think it's a crying shame that we neglect our "unknown" young talents, and don't help them when they need the encouragement most. In fact, we even discourage them, because the arts scene here is a generally closed shop that opens its doors mostly to people with "connections."

Gifted artists

But, what about young people who don't know anybody, but are gifted artists? Their claim to our attention and help should be their talent, period.

So, we are conducting workshops all over the country to help discover them, no strings attached—simply because we knew that the country will be the richer for it. If you need us and our group to conduct a workshop or seminar in your locality, call 713-9323 or 0919-2065424.

Twista's 'Kamikaze' is worth the long wait

By Rito P. Asilo

SPEED rapper Twista's guest appearances in the songs of other hip-hop artists like Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Ludacris and Jay-Z, with his remarkable motor-mouth style and guileless delivery, have always been welcome treats in the five years since his last album, "Mobstability," came out in 1999.

With the release of his third album, "Kamikaze," which debuted recently at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart, Twista delivers an album that is well worth the long wait.

Perspectives

We have to give the current crop of hip-hop artists some credit for acknowledging that plain rhythmic rapping and insanely inflammatory lyrics—many of them grammatically wanting, and sounding like the abbreviated text messages we get all the time—can get tiring and repetitive after 40 minutes of the same thing. So, they spice up their acts with collaborations that give their songs a potpourri of artistic perspectives and aural delights.

In Twista's well-produced 17-track collection, the intriguing lyrics don't merely sound like a ruse to give "Kamikaze" a commercial boost. —Except, perhaps, in the violent song whose title says it all: "Kill Us All."

In "Hope," he says goodbye to Aaliyah, TLC's Lisa "Left Eye" Lopez, and the people who perished in the 9-11 bombing: "Wish I could go deep in a zone/ And lift the spirits of the world with the words within this song/ Wish I could take the pain out of your hands and help you hold them high/ And I wish God never gave men power to hurt..."

THE SPEED rapper's first album in five years boasts of lyrics that drip with candor.

Dark humor

There's a dash of dark humor in "Slow Jamz": "Why is she always lying/Telling me diamonds when she knows they're rhinestones?/ She got a light-skinned friend look like Michael Jackson/ Got a dark-skinned friend look like Michael Jackson."

Our top pick: "Sunshine," a sumptuously infectious reworking of Bill Withers' "Lovely Day" that features Anthony Hamilton on vocals, will have you singing along and dancing to it.

(To be concluded)

Making the right choice

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THE QUALITY of our life depends on the choices we make. The right choice leads to happiness, while the wrong one leads to misery. In the end, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

The popular choice is not always the right one. Many fools make wrong decisions and follow the wrong path.

What is the basis for the right decision? The Absolute Truth is the source of all wisdom, enlightenment and good. A decision founded on satisfying the Supreme brings good to everyone, just as watering the roots of a tree nourishes all of its parts.

Values

Making choices is a lifetime activity, so learn to do it properly as early as possible. Have the right basis and values. Introspection and prayerful meditation help us make good decisions. Listen to the Lord!

If we see the world with eyes of love, we will know how to help others. If we see with eyes of lust, we will exploit and use others for selfish interests.

Physical blindness is not as terrible as spiritual blindness. Those who are spiritually blind can be so arrogant that they pretend to lead people on a path they themselves are not sure of. The mass destruction of societies is often caused by the blind spirituality of leaders.

The greatest nations are not those with bombs and tall buildings, but those whose people are close to the Supreme.

The best choices are not always easy, but they definitely result in peace and joy. There is no value in making an easy choice that ends in despair.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

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FORUM

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By Noelani Torre

BARRINO. Young Aretha Franklin.

WATCHING "American Idol" has become a craze in this country. Things are getting tens[e] with only four finalists left: [16]-year old Diana DeGarmo, 19-ye[ar] old Fanta[sia] Barrino, 17 year-old J[a]mine Tr[ia]ni and 25-year-old La Toya [Lon]don

Speculations

Spec[ulation] [a]bout will finally be han[ded] [t]o Id[ol] have been numer[ous] days, so we decide[d] to "Al's" avid watche[rs] houghts:

"*Kahit* [I] *analo si* Jasmine. Tr[ue] *nananalo* May[be] sweety-sweety [is] ready. Fantasi[a] La Toya

"*Ka*[ya] ...nklin. [Bu]t the [n]atural [fa]vou[rite] [p]erfor[m]ed [a]tior

pa ang tatlong judges!" -*Sean Julian Corpuz, Krus na Ligas, UP Diliman*

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Perspectives

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Dark humor

[T]here [w]as [a] [g]uy Jamz "Why [d]id [m]e [D]iamond [n]ecklace [r]hinestones." She friend look[ed] Mic[hael] dark-sk[inn]ed [s]ister Jackson

Our top pic[k] 'Sunsl[ow]' infectious [re]working of Bin With Day" that features Anthony Ham[il]ton cals, will [h]ave [y]ou [s]ing to it.

(To be concluded)

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[T]he love [s]o[ng] If [y]ou [a]re with [t]h[i]s for [a] [l]ifetime

[A]ctual [c]ontend [w]are [s]ocie[t]y tuality

[b]e with [w]hose [b]ut There [t]hat ends

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May 30, 2004 at SM Fairview
June 6, 2004 at Robinson's Galleria
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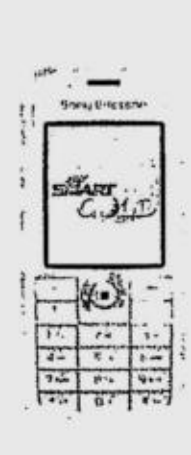

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Creative Director Tim Yap

lights camera action!

UBE goes to Hollywood page 13

Television's B-listers page 11

Ballot Pinoy page K1

Everybody comes to Belowood page 12

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Styling KIM SUNDBERG
Cover Set VALENTINA
Location MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

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- Draw dates will be on May 20, 2004 and June 24, 2004, at 5:00pm at the Levi Strauss Philippines head office at 2264 Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City (for Luzon stores/brances) and at 111 QC Pavilion, Gorordo Avenue, Layug, Cebu City (for Visayas stores/brances). A DTI representative shall be invited to witness the draw.
- On each scheduled draw, fifteen (15) winners will be selected, one (1) winner for each participating store, for a total of thirty (30) winners for the promo period. Non-winning raffle coupons in the first draw will be included in the second draw.
- Each winner will get double the amount specified in the winning raffle coupon, with 50% of the value made available as cash, and 50% of the value given as Dockers® Gift Certificates. Dockers® Gift Certificates will be honored at all participating stores/branches.
- A customer can only win once for the entire promo period.
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  - Unit 111 QC Pavilion, Gorordo Ave., Lahug, Cebu City (for Cebu winners)
  - Dockers®/Symel's - Atrium, Ilo-ilo (for Ilo-ilo winners)
- Prizes not claimed within a period of 60 days from receipt of the registered mail will be forfeited with prior DTI approval.
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- Dockers®/Symel's - Atrium, Ilo-ilo
- Dockers® - The Landmark, Makati
- Dockers®/Kiddie Teens - Robinson's MetroEast, Cainta

Per DTI NCR permit no. 1582 series of 2004

Jose Amigo—Visual Sniper

Tim Yap

THE PHOTOS you see on this page were not lifted from the pages of some foreign fashion magazine. Rather, they are the works of a Filipino fashion photographer currently making waves in the United States. His name is Jose Amigo.

Based in Miami, Jose Amigo shoots major campaigns for big fashion brands such as Banana Republic, Calvin Klein, and Chocolate Clothing Co. (we'll soon see his work in billboards and stores here in Manila); as well as top glossies Marie Claire, The Loft, and Gada (Miami-based style publications). His style—contemporary/avant garde—highlights his flair for playing with color and light.

Jose Amigo started his love affair with photography in fifth grade, when he bought his first professional camera. At that time, sisters Faith and Ana (both very active in the Manila fashion and social scenes) teased him: "You're such a dreamer—you'll never make money just being a photographer!"

But it became his love, nothing less. He found his passion, capturing moments on film. "He was never without his camera," recalls Faith.

His vocation took him everywhere—from truck stops to waffle houses, where he would break bread with strangers, make friends with them, and finally take snapshots of them. "He is a really nice guy and makes friends with everyone," notes Ana.

Throughout his college years, Jose Amigo's family continued to dissuade him. But he just would not give up. Driving a third-hand truck, he would go around from state to state shooting random subjects like some visual sniper.

Finally, one day he had a huge break documenting a car racing competition. From there, more opportunities followed one after the other, leading him to different aspects of photography, from the fast lane to the fashion highway.

Now he's driving a first-hand 4x4, staying on the posh side of Miami Beach, and is married to stylist Kim Sundberg. Siblings Ana and Faith can only apologize for their childhood condescension and eat their words.

He hasn't been back for some time because every time he plans a homecoming, some big project comes up—but it is definitely in his agenda. Right now, the husband and wife team is in New York shooting for Calvin Klein.

Success is often an uphill battle, and the incline is steepest just before the apex. But it is achievable. Just ask Jose Amigo—he's got the pictures to prove it.

To check out more of his work, go to www.joseamigo.com.

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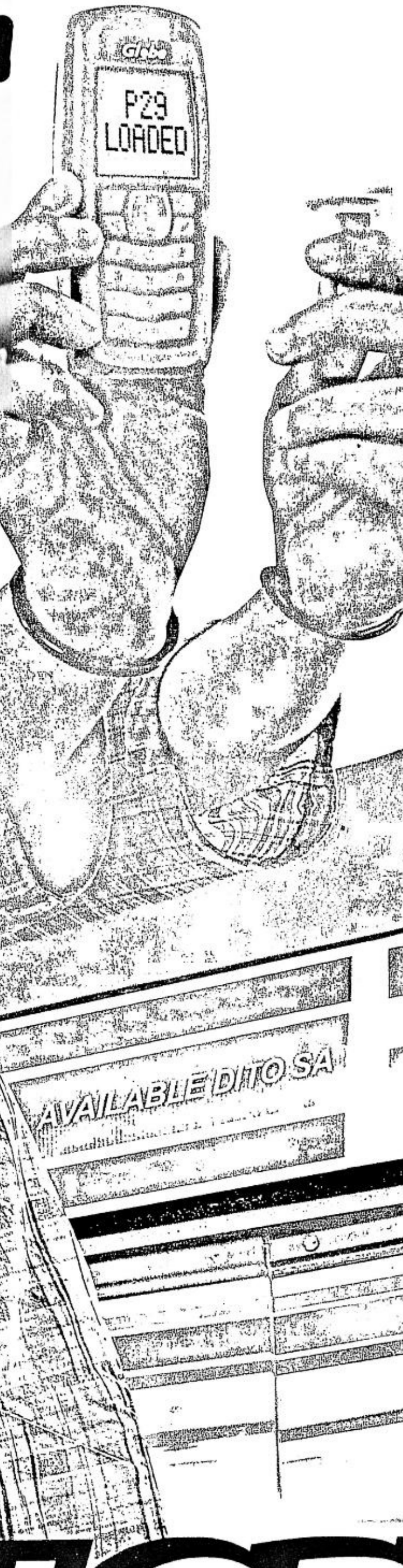

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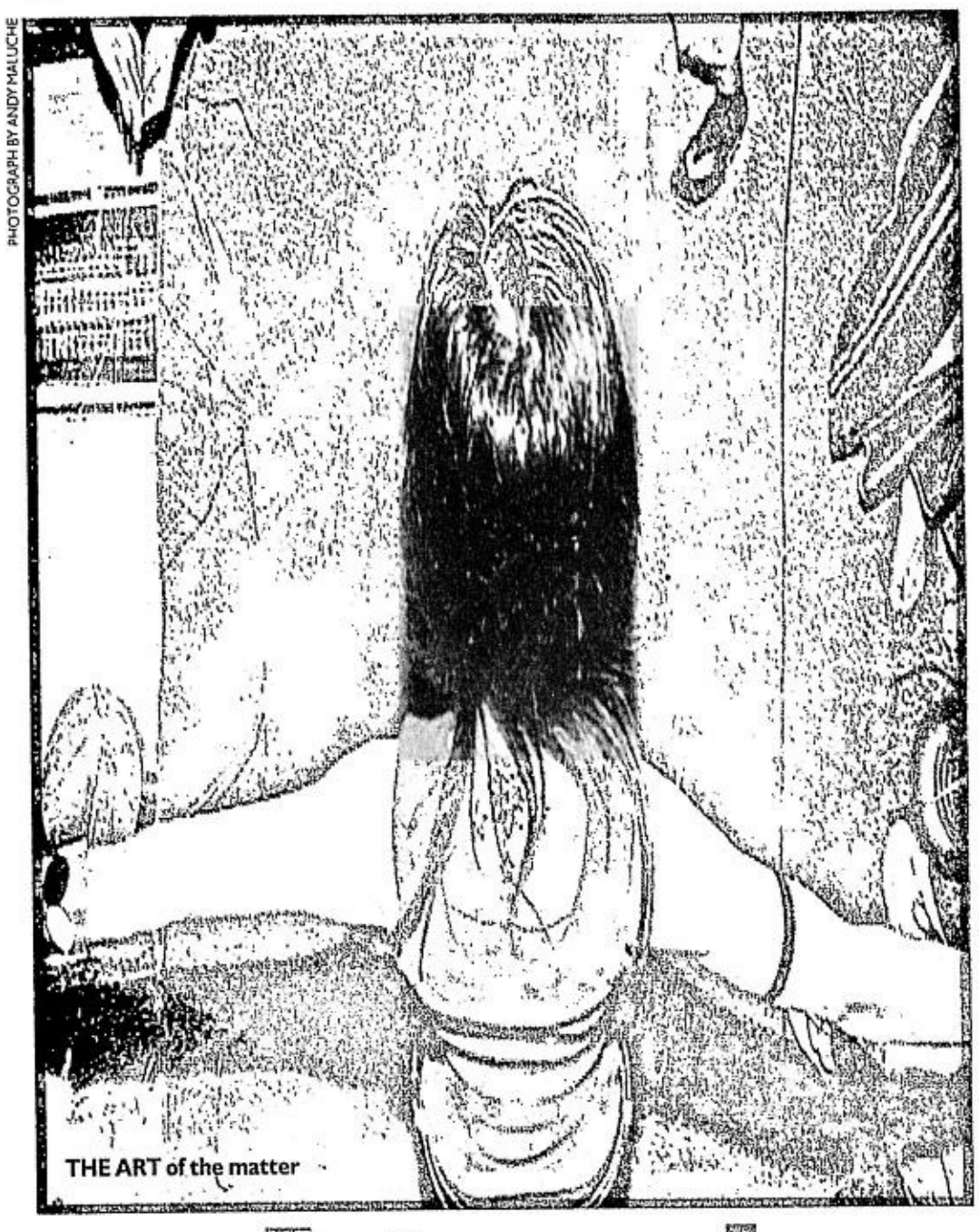
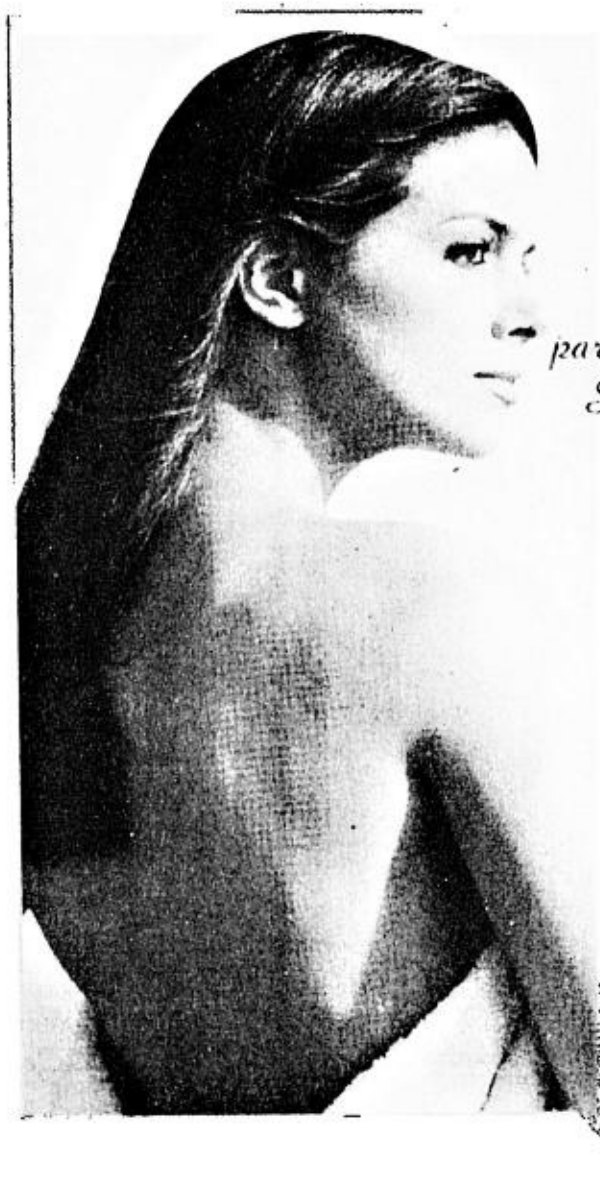

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY MALUCHE
THE ART of the matter

There is one thing shared by Nick Joaquin's generation and ours, and it ain't just San Miguel Beer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Art, soul and the Motherland

OUT THE WINDOW
Tals Diaz

FOR whom the beer tolls, it tolled for the last time on May Day Eve for the man considered the greatest Filipino writer, Nick Joaquin. Oft times, when a great writer departs this world, his words are heard even louder.

As I was reading the report about his final, apocalyptic few days, I was struck by what he said amidst the next generation of wordsmiths. "I feel too old and they are so young!" Those simple words spoke volumes to me about the many seasons that exist between the generations; it told of the schism between the old vanguards and the avant-garde.

Certainly, the differences between the two worlds are glaring. Myth has given way to MTV, the dusty *calles* of old are now hidden in the shadows of skyways, post-war culture has shifted to a pre-paid subculture, and long-term memory is now replaced by Short Messaging Service. Yet there is one thing shared by Nick Joaquin's generation and ours, and it ain't just San Miguel Beer. The umbilical cord that connects our navels is a sense of country. Indeed, young and old, in life and in death, we all honor—we should honor—the same Mother.

Portrait of the Artist as a Riddler

The death of a National Artist always resurrects in me certain lingering questions: What does it really mean to be an artist? Particularly, what role does the artist play in creating the big portrait of a nation?

Woody Allen, playing the role of comedian Alvy Singer in the Oscar-winning film, "Annie Hall" commented, "you know you're always trying to get things perfect in art because it's real difficult in life." The insight here, more than the struggle for perfection in the creative process, is the subversive nature of art. I, personally, define art as a riddle. A true artist, in that sense, is a talented riddler. Why? Because true art doesn't impart meaning by stating the obvious. Instead, it hints at the essence of the message. Faced with creative work, we are wont to ask, "What is it about?" Or, "What does this say to me?" A good film can impart an invaluable message without ever saying it in the script, an arresting photograph can evoke compassion, a painting can convey melancholy with an interplay of colors and strokes, music can express the dimensions of love in a different language. And looking back on our own history—a book or two can ignite a sense of national pride when people are able to read the invisible missives between the lines.

Thus, I have never believed that art is frivolous. For that would be like saying that love or pride or passion is insignificant. The creative energy behind true art is a powerful force that can summon change, even spark revolutions, be they minute transformations or critical progressions. The revolution occurs at the inspired moment, when a deeper sensibility within is awakened and hidden meanings are discerned. It's almost like saying, "Aha!" when you solve a riddle.

And yet today we are being drowned in the mangled notions of "artist," "talent" and even "*artista*" in a very different sense, such that we have microwaveable boy bands as "Artists of the Month" on music video channels, "talents" that oftentimes have anything but, and National *Artistas* gunning for the highest offices in the land. Most of these people aren't riddlers, they are jokers.

I believe that now, more than ever, we need to be in tune with the creative force that speaks of

ART, SOUL/ H3

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Single, white females [and males]

WHITE IN RED. Birthday celebrants Cindy Kurleto and Borgy Manotoc

AMUSED MUSES. Nicolette Bell (Happy birthday Nick—that's today!) and Raya Manano

By Tim Yap

I WENT through my phone book looking for singles and realized there were not too many.

So when I called to invite people to the intimate "Singles" party at Shangri-la Makati's Red, I reached only 21 people.

Fortunately, they happened to be 21 of the city's most eligible. "Most eligible lists" this side of town usually include people who are currently dating, making the ones listed prone to poaching.

I made sure that they were truly "available."

"Are you single? As in, totally not committed to anyone? Not dating anyone? Not waiting for an answer? If the answer to all these questions is yes—then you are invited!"

The Red bar was open pasture for the frivolous flirting of Manila's mares and stallions all decked in summer's most practical color—white (sorry, not red). With so much white inside Red's halls, the people looked like teeth in a healthy mouth.

Speaking of mouths, we had a mouthful of mouth-watering treats—from canapes to Red's 21 cocktails—to celebrate the 21st birthday of Super's resident heartthrob Borgy Manotoc. Cindy Kurleto, another birthday celebrator, joined the party at midnight, when they blew the candles on their respective cakes.

Vodkatinis, bellini-tinis, choco-tinis and "Celinis" were flowed like the Nile.

Shangri-la Makati gave Borgy and Cindy Shanghai Tang goodies while recently single Joel Ong won a gift certificate (for two?) as everyone toasted singlehood. I overheard Hans Montenegro (recently single as well) talking to model Alex Escat, "I think that's why we like being single—because we are in total control of ourselves and we have so much more choice."

I don't know about you, Alex, but I only had the 21 martinis to choose from.

BORGY BLOWS. All 21 of them.

MY TWO FAVORITE PEOPLE. Alex Escat with Swatch Addict Borgy Manotoc

RED MAVEN LIKES WHITE BOYS. Yasmine Hidalgo with Dane Hutchinson and Chris Dane

SINGLE brown male Joel Ong

WANNA HAVE A BIKINI-TINI? Brent Javier invites you to indulge

LET THEM EAT CAKE. Models eat, too—once a week

ADDICTED TO GROUP FUN. Govinda Lloyd, Tim Yap, Anna Angara and Borgy

I SEE Red people!

ALONE BUT NOT LONELY. "Cheers to singlehood!"

ART TO HEART TALK. Miguel Rosales, Nicolette Bell and Epy Quizon

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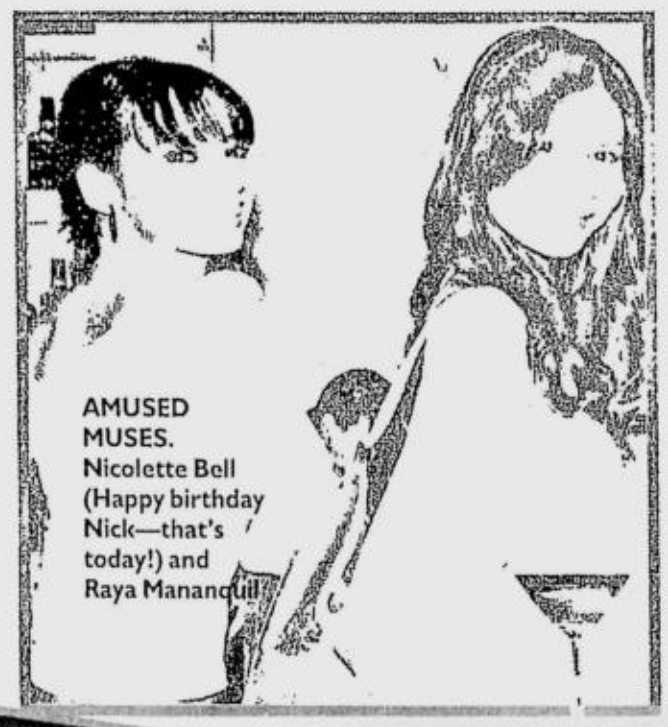
Single, [and males]

WHITE IN RED. Birthday celebrants Cindy Kurleto and Borgy Manotoc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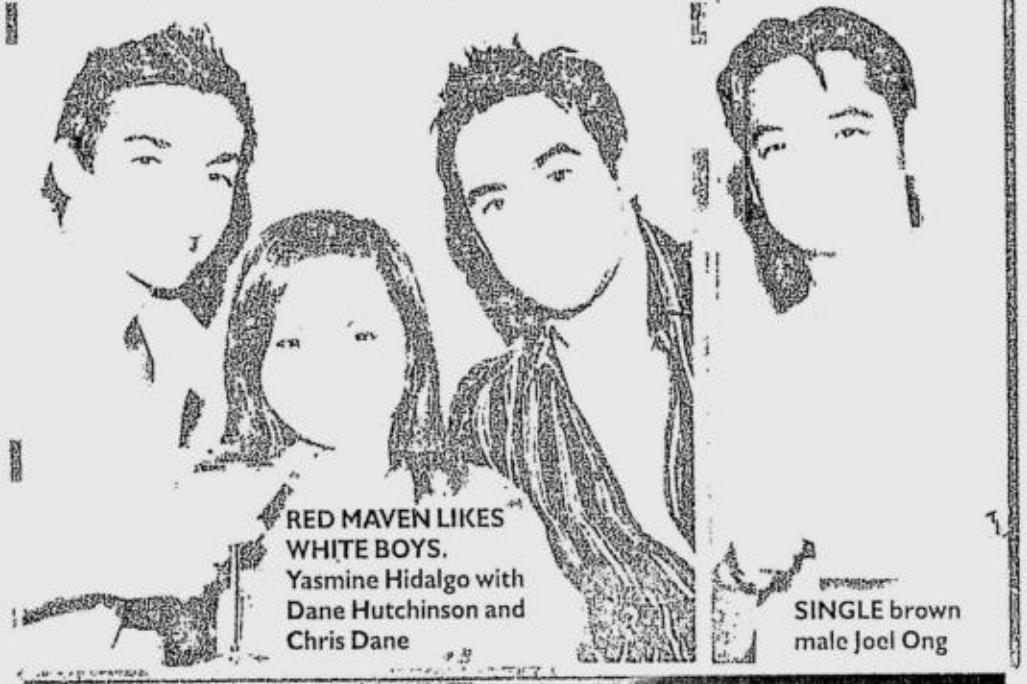
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And if mom is one of 'em badminton aficionados, take her to The Spa Acropolis Badminton, with Olympic standard floors using high-tech wood suspended systems (you wouldn't want anything less for mummy's hips, knees and ankles). After the game, she can relax, refresh and rejuvenate at the steam room, sauna, hot-and-cold whirlpools, and vanity lounges—and forget where dad is.

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Il Ponticello means "little bridge" in Italian. The restaurant has earned a reputation for offering nothing less than authentic Italian food. Almost six years in the business, it has lived up to its name as bridge to different regions in Italy.

Every three months, Il Ponticello features the specialty dishes of a different region.

Portuguese guest chef Nuno Mendes, who has made a mark in the global restaurant community by working in some of the most prestigious restaurants around the United States (Jean Georges in New York, The Union Pacific NY and The Postrio in California) and Europe (Restaurant El Bulli in Roses, Spain), recently revealed his innovative creations.

Let's just say Chef Mendes is someone you'd "love to bring home to mom."

He has left Manila (the Il Ponticello festival ended yesterday) but his special creations remain on the menu.

For reservations, call Mark or Alberto, 887-7168 or 887-4998. Il Ponticello is on the second floor of Antel Bldg, 121 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

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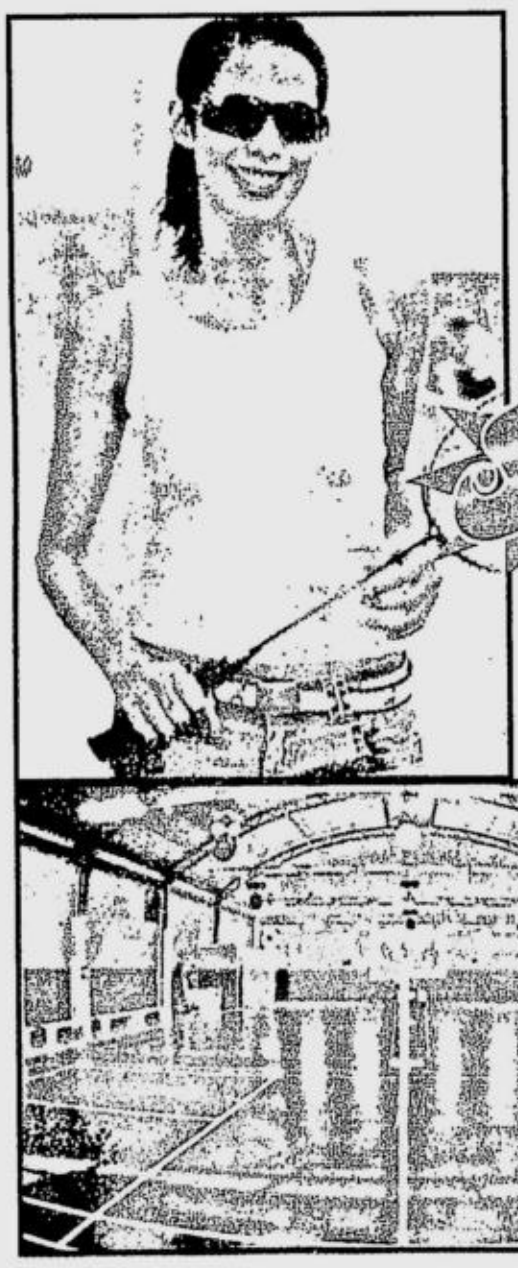
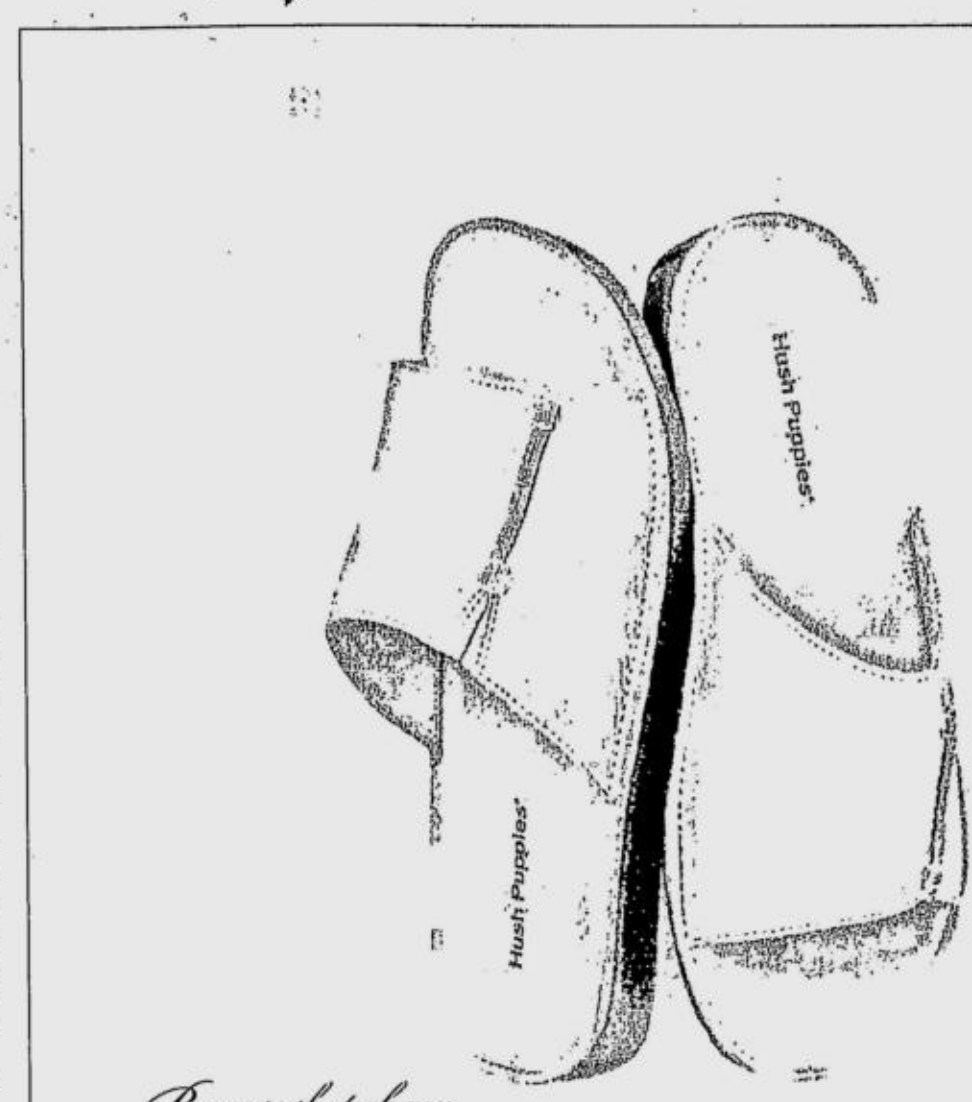
Whip up a Super! surprise: tell mom you personally picked a special menu for her! Even if it's not true, your mom will love you for taking her to Le Soufflé Ortigas, which has prepared a little special something for moms today—a new menu, gifts, and more!

But let this be your secret—call for reservations, 636-1613, 636-1614, 634-8945 or 634-8971 and they'll take care of the most important woman in your life (at least for tomorrow).



BADMINTON Angel at the newly opened The Spa Acropolis Badminton court



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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1142, Series of 2004

Art, soul . . .

From page H1

change. We need to define for ourselves what it means to be nationalistic in this modern era without stating it so loudly that it becomes *baduy*. We need those revolutions in revelations, that breath of inspiration to constantly remind us about our unique identity in the global scheme of things. We need those encrypted messages to keep us from being cynical and turn hopeless about the one true place we call home.

Enter-and-Download

I am part of that Enter-and-Download generation that has to sift through the frenetic imagery and swim through the sensory influx before we can even begin to reflect on the deeper meanings behind it all. To be candid, it really sucks to keep hearing that I'm in an age group that's guilty of having the memory capacity of a goldfish. But in defense of this motley crew that I am a living fraction of, I would also be in a good position to say that there is a throbbing pulse of faith kept alive by the young artists who keep that revolutionary spirit alive. The popular mediums may have changed, but the riddles are still there for us to solve. Whether it's in rearranging the syllables of Bamboo's song, "Noypi," or looking at the 3D-generated *bahay kubos* and the Mayon volcano in the fish tanks of "Finding Nemo," courtesy of the Filipino animators over at Pixar, or reflecting on the face of Bonifacio emblazoned on the T-shirts of the underground label Bonifashion—heck, even just observing the rising sun on the blue-and-red colors on the current MTV logo shown on our TV screens—we have to seek reminders of the heritage that shapes our character. The riddles are around us, and we can solve them only by asking what they really mean to us.

Never fail to seek it out, and never forget.

(Rock the vote, send me a note at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

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Research has shown plant-derived estrogens can offer protection against a wide range of human degenerative conditions, such as osteoporosis, certain cancers, cardiovascular disease, menopausal symptoms, and diabetes. Now, more than ever, there is an increasing awareness of the potential health benefits of soyfoods. Soybeans are also 100% cholesterol-free.

Why is soy a true health food?

Antioxidants

Scientists have found compounds in soyfoods that can help protect your cells against free radical damage; soy has been shown to lower the risk of heart disease, many forms of cancer, and premature aging.

Cancer

Scientists have discovered some cancer-fighting compounds in soy, such as isoflavones. Recent studies also show that soy foods lower the risk of lung, colon, breast, and prostate cancers.

Lactose Free

It is estimated 80% of the Asian population are lactose intolerant, and the number will increase as more Asians live longer. Dairy products can cause painful stomach problems for those who are lactose intolerant. Soy products are naturally lactose free and are a healthy alternative to dairy products.

Nutrition

Soybeans are the only beans that provide high quality proteins which contain all nine essential amino acids. Soybeans are equivalent to meat and eggs in protein quality. Soybeans are also a very high natural source of vitamin E and other vitamins, minerals, and fiber.

In October 1999 the FDA published the following claim: Diets low in saturated fat and cholesterol that include 25 grams of soy protein a day may reduce the risk of heart disease. Soymilk contains 6.25 grams of soy protein per serving.

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Millions of American women suffer from the discomfort of hot flashes, a side effect of menopause, related in large part to dietary influences. Asian women consume nine times the amount of soy products, and experience only 20% of the occurrences of hot flashes compared to American women during menopause.

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According to recent studies, the amino acid chains in soy beans can even help boost your immune system to fight disease better. The protease inhibitors in soy might actually kill viruses.

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A problem of immense proportion for an aging population. It is estimated millions of women suffer from low bone mass. Studies show high soy diets result in significant increases in bone mineral and bone density.

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- Level 2, SM City Manila
- Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City
- Level 2, SM Megamall B, EDSA, Mandaluyong City
- Level 1, SM Pampanga Annex
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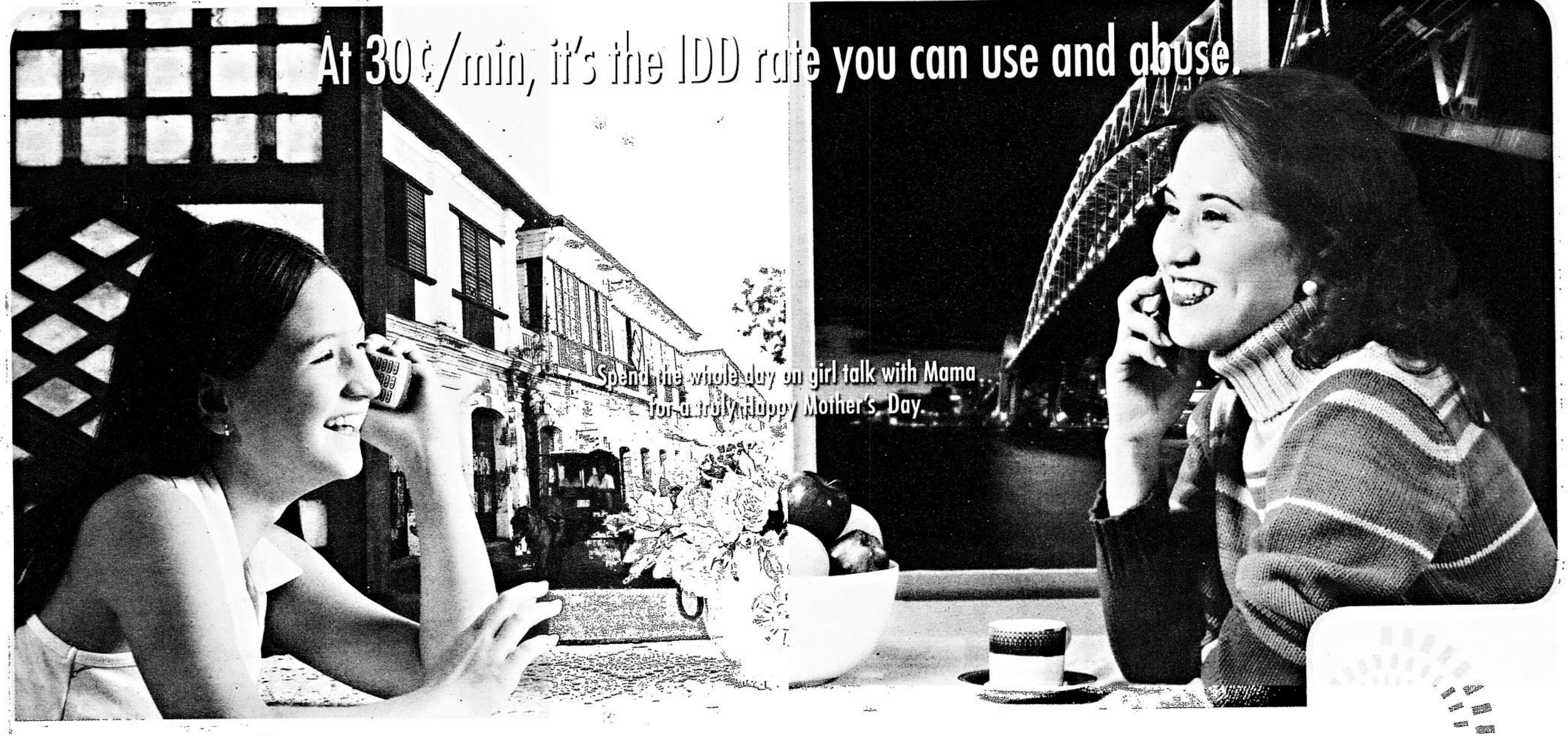

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Invasion of the B-Listers

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

Underdogs and oddballs, like the temporarily amusing William Hung, rule Hollyweird, and it's pointless to resist

CHINESE immigrants and their descendants in North America have battled racism for centuries. No thanks to "American Idol" reject William Hung, their crusade has been pushed back by a few decades. His spastic, karaoke death match rendition of Ricky Martin's "She Bangs" resurrects the buck-toothed, fresh-off-the-boat stereotype they've been trying so hard to kick out of bed. But miraculously, Hung now has a recording contract, a music video, and the rapt attention of countless bloggers who think he's charming in a Special Olympics kind of way. Meet William Hung, "Face of the Apocalypse."

If someone had told me a year ago that a high-waisted Hongkie would create ripples in the American entertainment industry, I would've chalked it up to sheer dementia. In fact, I probably would've slapped my knees bloody or, worse, laughed myself into a coma. Admittedly, William Hung is an underdog as well as an oddball in the Hollywood universe inhabited by Reese, Gwyneth and Colin. However, in a parallel planet where "Baywatch" is considered quality programming—also known as Hollyweird—Hung is not a geeky caricature but a certified star. Exactly what kind of celebrity is he? That's open to debate.

The temporarily amusing Hung—along with anyone who's ever appeared in any reality TV show—is part of pop culture's so-called B-List. An antidote to unattainable A-Listers, B-Listers achieve mainstream stardom not by their ability to superbly essay a movie role, design an architectural masterpiece, or do anything concretely ingenious. These second-tier eager beavers become famous via their desire to become famous and nothing more.

From the get-go, reality television is the petri dish in which this insanity breeds. Realizing that Julianne Moore would never agree to be "The Bachelorette," producers have clambered down the fame ladder to turn the formerly obscure into instant celebrities. Because of this multi-level marketing attack involving all reality sub-genres—romance, adventure, general back-stabbing—we are up to our eyeballs with gong show idiots like William Hung. If you and I and all the other regular Joes have a shot at stardom because of this reality business, what will happen to the concept of celebrity? Is television at the cusp of a full-scale B-List invasion?

Reality flukes

B-Listers attain iconicity in spite of their tremendous non-talent. The degeneration apparently started with the mother of all reality series, the OJ Simpson murder trial in 1994. This trial was our first taste of reality television and Kato Kaelin was the first everydude to make it to the B-List all-stars. A decade down the line, I hear you ask "Kato who?" What did I tell you? But don't think you'll redeem your self-respect just yet. Today's species of B-List celebrities are neck and neck with yesterday's creepies John Wayne Bobbit, Monica Lewinski and John Tesh. (The only consolation, if you can call it that, is that the new generation B-Listers seem to look a lot savvier. Maybe it's the lighting.) Sigh.

Rehabbing from the sight of the eternally greasy Evan Marriott pouting like a seasoned pro in "Joe Millionaire," we find ourselves descending into a purgatory saturated with novelty nobodies and overnight sensations. What can trump the hard-won fame of competitors from such B-List factories as "Fear Factor," MTV's "Real World," and Fox's "Temptation Island"? Who recalls

INVASION '14

fond of fruit?

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TO LAUNCH A THOUSAND SHOPS. Aubrey Miles and Troy Montero

ILLEGALLY BLONDE Celine Lopez as Gwyneth Paltrow

CLASSIC WITH A TWIST. Liza Ilarde, Mega fashion plate

JUST SHOP! Jenni Epperson struts her Rainbow Bazaar stuff on the red carpet

BOOB TUBE beauties Ces Drilon and Miriam Quiambao

SUPER! STYLE. Audrey Carpio tricks Martin Valdes into showing up

Everybody comes to Belowood

By Tim Yap
Photos by Ramon Tan Mangila

SO who's afraid of Vicki Belo? These days looking better is as easy as 1, 2,3, 4 ... 5! As in the fifth floor of Rustan's Makati—Dr. Belo's new home.

Okay, so the new Belo clinic isn't exactly a cosmetic surgery center where you can go to have your nose, cheeks, butt cheeks, thighs, tummy, or whatever else part of your body, modified. This Rustan's Belo clinic acts as a dermatological chapel for those seeking the forgiveness of skin.

It's not as if you can go to Rustan's and pretend to buy some fragrance and then hop over to the fifth level and come down looking like Nicole Kidman—although somebody at the launch dinner tried.

Tessa Prieto-Valdes played Moulin Rouge mistress as she hosted the night's Hollywood-theme affair (Celine Lopez came as Gwyneth, wig courtesy of Tessa), complete with red carpet from first to the fifth floor—with local tinsel town's finest in attendance.

Phoemela Barranda admitted having laser hair (armpit) removal, and so did Aubrey Miles and Miriam Quiambao. Ces Drilon was tagged "botox queen," with Maurice Arcache as her king. Abbygale Arenas was proud of her lipo, and Albert Martinez and Troy Montero boasted sprayed-on tans.

The rest kept quiet about their nose jobs, tummy tucks and breast implants—opting to enjoy the food by Margarita Fores and the giveaways from Bvlgari, Leonidas Belgian Pralines, and Clarins—all Vicki's favorites. Others trooped to the bar when the moment of truth came, hoping to evade Tessa's query on what Vicki had done for them.

And then Jaya sang a couple of dance hits. Model Alex Montes, capitalizing on his Latin heritage, took the floor and charmed the ladies. Super's Martin Valdes and Miguel Rosales had a guessing game going: What songs were most appropriate for the event? "Cuts Like a Knife," and "You've got the Best of my Flab" were the winning choices.

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The vivacious one thanked everyone for their support and presence, with a special mention to her partner, Joey Santos.

All in all, it was a lavish affair, as "Belo the belle" as can be.

EXTRA CHALLENGING Phoemela Barranda and Vicki's hairdo

FAMILY FIRST Liezl and Albert Martinez

NO NEED FOR MAKEOVERS Kitty Salcedo and Carmina Dorado

PERFECT PITCH! Karylle and Jaya

BELO BEAUTIES Miriam, Tina, Vicki and Celine at Rustan's

MOULIN ROGUE. Tessa Prieto-Valdes' not-so-subtle seduction

BELO-LICIOUS. Dra. Vicki Belo provides lipo service

JOYCE TICKS. Joyce Jimenez, lingerie queen

MY BREAST friend Ara Mina

VANITY affair to launch Belo at Rustan's

POSH AND BECK AND CALL. Victoria London and Joel Tantoco

WHERE'S QUARK? Atom, Vicki and Cornelio

HYLURONIC SEALED MOUTH

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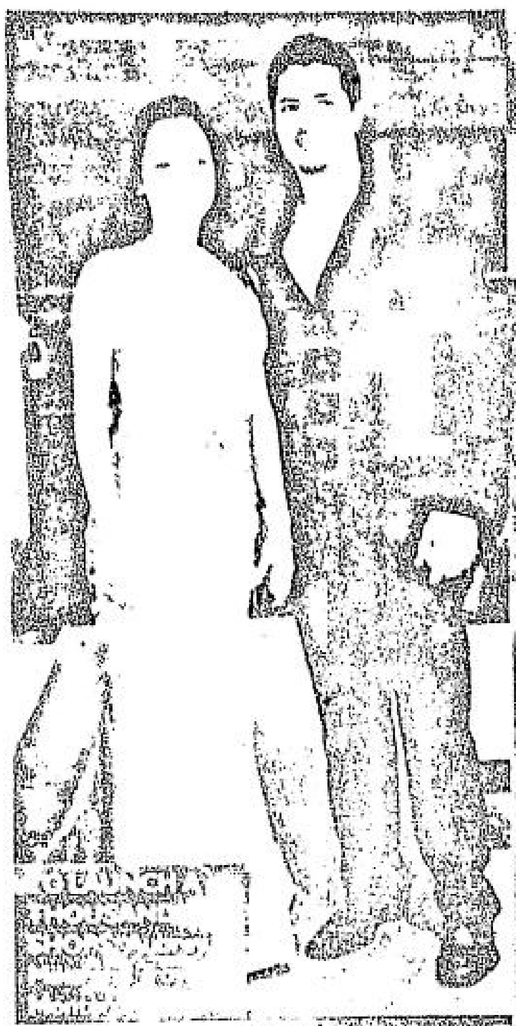
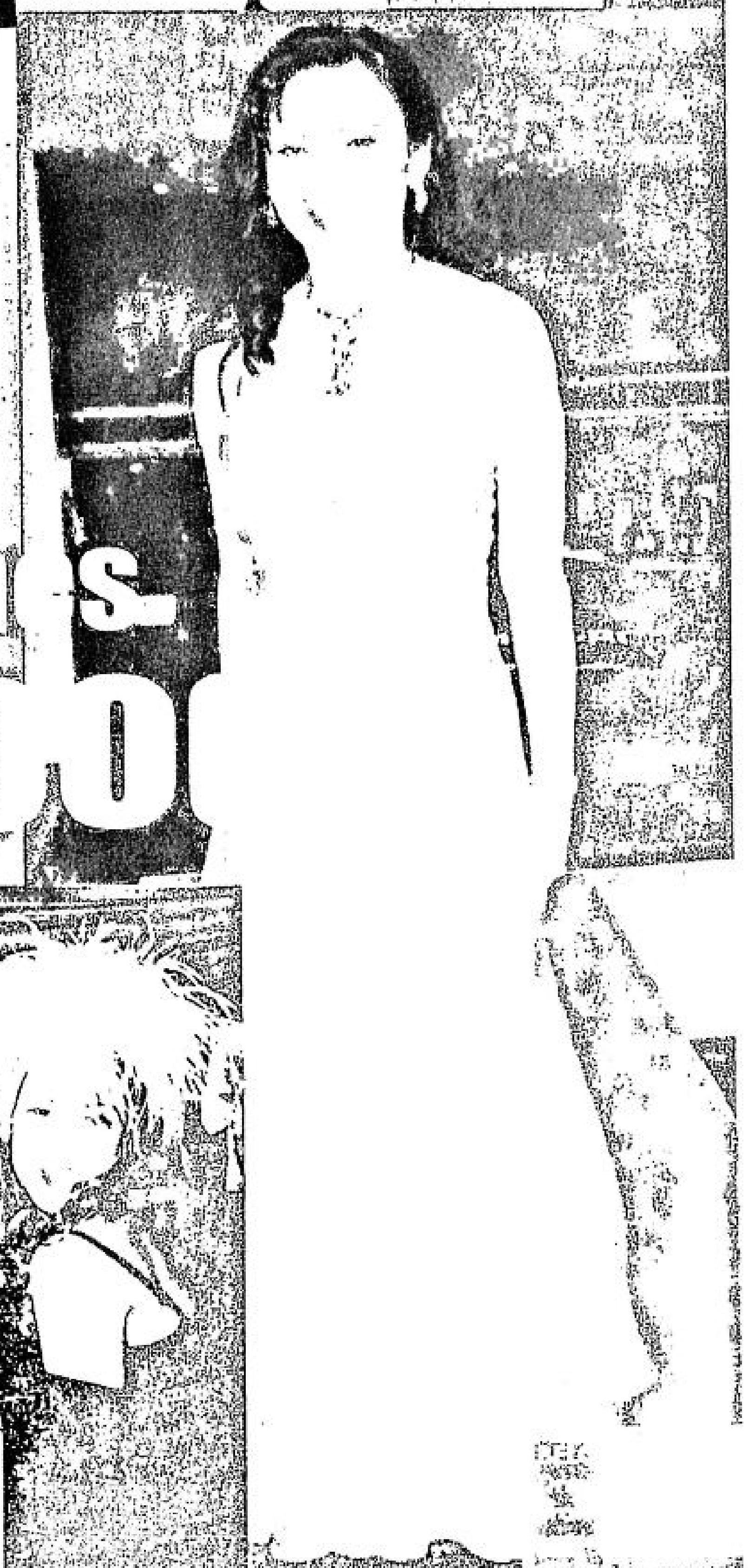


CLASSIC WITH A TWIST: Liza Burda, Mega fashion plate

JUST SHOP! Ja... Epperson stru... her Rainbow Bazaar stuff on the red carpet



Everybody comes to Hollywood

By Tim Yap
Photos by Ramon Tan Mangila

SO who's afraid of Vicki Belo? These days looking better is as easy as 1, 2,3, 4 ... 5! As in the fifth floor of Rustan's Makati—Dr. Belo's new home.

Okay, so the new Belo clinic isn't exactly a cosmetic surgery center where you can go to have your nose, cheeks, butt cheeks, thighs, tummy, or whatever else part of your body, modified. This Rustan's Belo clinic acts as a dermatological chapel for those seeking the forgiveness of skin.

It's not as if you can go to Rustan's and pretend to buy some fragrance and then hop over to the fifth level and come down looking like Nicole Kidman—although somebody at the launch dinner tried.

Tessa Prieto-Valdes played Moulin Rouge mistress as she hosted the night's Hollywood-theme affair (Celine Lopez came as Gwyneth, wig courtesy of Tessa), complete with red carpet from first to the fifth floor—with local tinsel town's finest in attendance.

Phoemela Barranda admitted having laser hair (armpit) removal, and so did Aubrey Miles and Miriam Quiambao. Ces Drilon was tagged "botox queen," with Maurice Arcache as her king. Abbygale Arenas was proud of her lipo, and Albert Martinez and Troy Montero boasted sprayed-on tans.

The rest kept quiet about their nose jobs, tummy tucks and breast implants—opting to enjoy the food by Margarita Fores and the giveaways from Bvlgari, Leonidas Belgian Pralines, and Clarins—all Vicki's favorites. Others trooped to the bar when the moment of truth came, hoping to evade Tessa's query on what Vicki had done for them.

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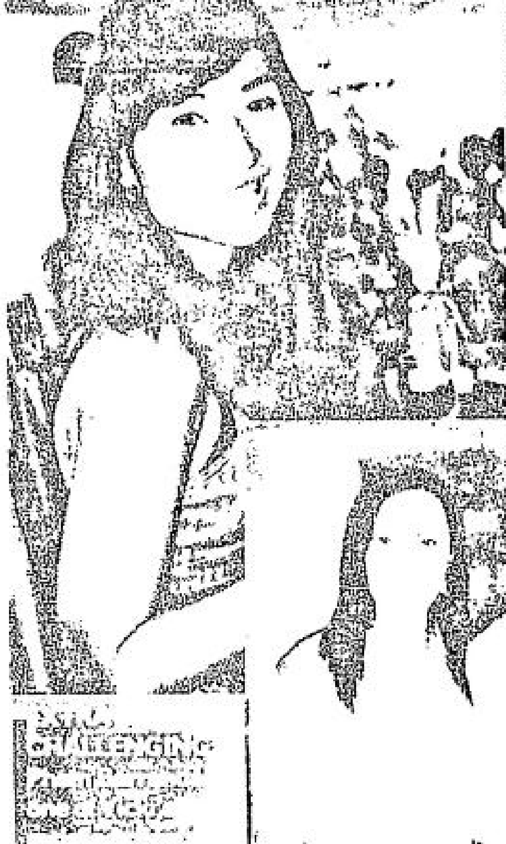

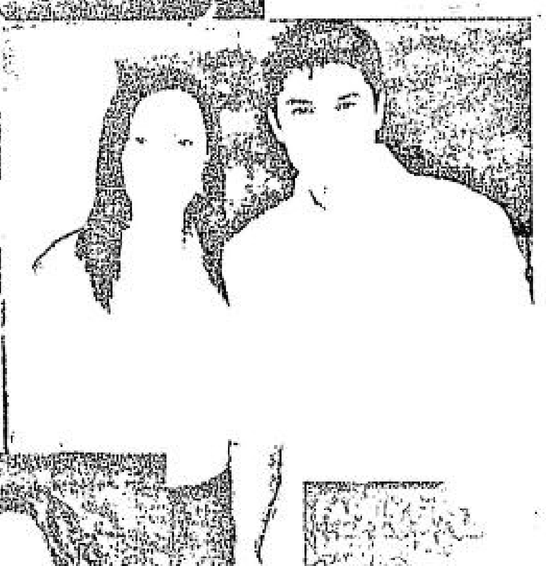

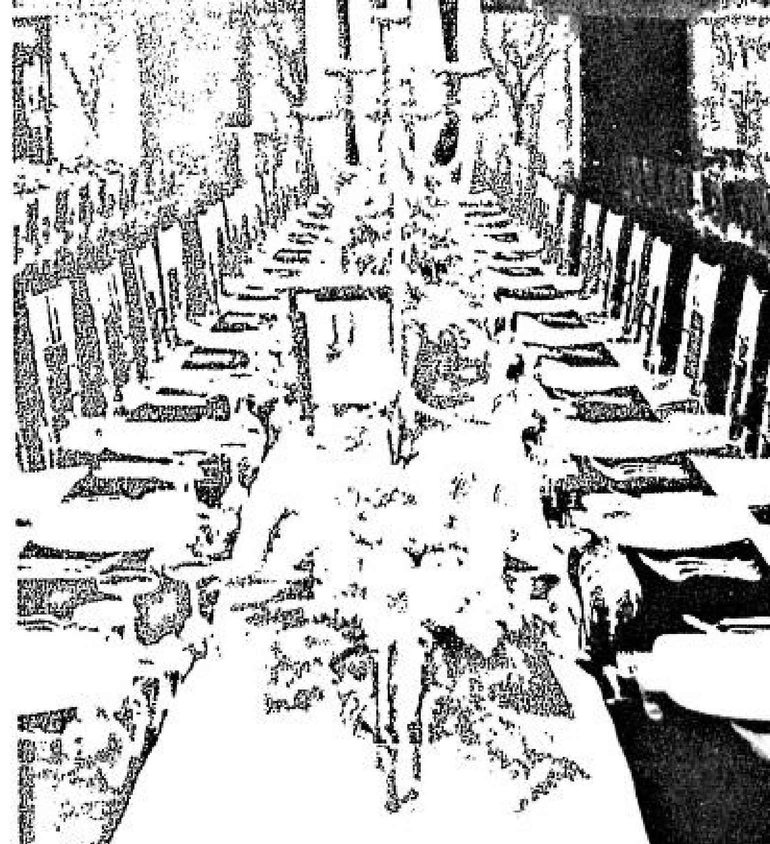

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THE KING AND US. Ube Media crew with Bembol Roco

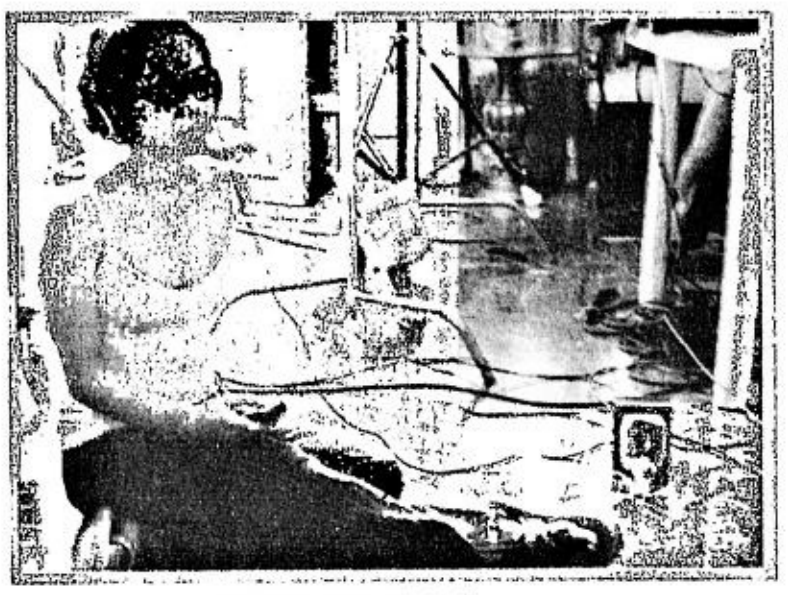
JUST SHOOT ME. Francis dela Torre with Joel Torre

AMERICAN UBE. With Jorgen Sampson, who plays the male lead

Ube goes to Hollywood

By Tals Diaz

IT'S ALL SCRIPTED. From actress to producer to neo global nationalist



OUT TO CHANGE THE WORLD. Sheila Lina texts away

LET'S take some time off and reflect on the *ube*, shall we? It's a purple root, and it's indigenous to the Philippine Islands. It's the "special" that makes the Halo-Halo Special, and it is the number one flavor in our homeland, when in most other countries, it's either chocolate or vanilla. And it could just be the thing that will make it to Hollywood.

Based in Manila and Los Angeles, Ube Media is a creative and innovative entertainment outfit that produces films that will introduce Manila to Hollywood with a fresh, neoteric project in the works. Shedding light on the major project is Ube's twenty-two year old entertainment media manager Shiela Lina. This petite and feisty *chinita* represents the new breed of neo-global nationalists, inspired by a positive outlook that Filipino filmmaking can achieve commercial success even in the world's most competitive and demanding film arena. Their solution is to be handled with care—it's a film venture entitled "Porcelain."

"Porcelain" is a story of an American journalist who becomes entangled in the political and emotional intrigues set into motion by a mysterious Filipina socialite (played fittingly enough by Rosanna Prieto). The film's story will be told within the framework of the film noir tradition, with morally ambiguous characters and an otherworldly treatment. The crew recently wrapped up shooting a 5- to 7-minute trailer set in the familiar landscapes and byways of Manila, including Ayala Avenue, the Coconut Palace and a frenetic *palengke* at noon. Shiela eventually plans to shop around "Porcelain's" sneak peak among prospective investors in Los Angeles, in the hopes of landing production deals to shoot a movie with A-list actors here in the country. Yet unlike previous film jaunts that have shot Manila disguised as another Southeast Asian city like Bangkok, the film will showcase Manila as herself—call it a "traila' in Manila" if you will.

An ambitious endeavor indeed, yet Shiela is not one to settle for anything less than best. Her first ventures in the limelight were set not behind the camera lens but at front and center of the theater stage. Acting is her chief passion, and she in fact used to perform in Repertory plays as a teenager. She eventually moved to New York where she took a more pragmatic route, double majoring in International Business and Marketing at NYU. Proving that though you can take a girl out of the stage, you can't take the stage out of the girl-she focused her studies on the business of show business. She then moved to Los Angeles, where she hooked up with family friend and talented cinematographer Francis de la Torre, a film school graduate of USC and who has shot several music videos and independent short films shown on Cinemax and HBO. Their fellowship, together with Shiela's sister Donna, took root and formed Ube Media. The threesome then came up with the big idea of producing a film and shooting it in Manila, a landscape that is virtually unfamiliar to foreign audiences.

"The perception abroad is that the Philippines is a crazy, chaotic, terrorist-infested country. There's not a lot of confidence among investors to spend money here, with no guarantee of the quality of the product," she relates. "First and foremost, we want to bring attention to the country, in any shape or form. No one really knows what goes on here. We want something to be out there that represents us today," Shiela offers. Learning a thing or two from the successes of La Buena Onda, or the New Wave of acclaimed Latin American filmmakers who have hit commercial success with independently-produced films such as Mexico's "Amores Perros" and "Y Tu Mama Tambien" and Brazil's "City of God," Ube Media hopes to offer something that will reveal contemporary Filipino society in Modern day Manila. "I think the reason why those foreign films make it in the commercial market is because they deal with universal themes," she believes, and thus they are embarking on creating genre films with concepts that even foreign audiences can relate to.

Shiela and Francis came back to Manila to check out the quality of filmmaking equipment here, and discovered that the tools were more than competent. The reason behind the sub-standard output of many films in the local industry, Shiela believes, is that many producers and directors scrimp on certain details in the filmmaking process, details which eventually spell a huge difference in the final product. Filmmaking quality is the foremost component that Ube Media hopes to revolutionize. The Ube gang eventually secured some initial financing to produce the trailer of "Porcelain," starring a talent pool of acclaimed Filipino actors such as Joel Torre, Bembol Roco, Jinggoy Alonzo and Jaime Fabregas.

"I want people to change their mindsets when it comes to making films in the Philippines. I think filmmakers should have a more global vision," Shiela relates. Acknowledging that she could be incurring the ire of a lot of the local film industry bigwigs, she points out that there remains a lot to be desired with the filmmaking practices in the local scene. Aside from budget limitations, which is usually the biggest concern in any film venture, local filmmaking eschews certain fundamental principles of the art. Scriptwriting for one, neglects a lot of basic storytelling parameters that are integral to the film discipline. To remedy this, the crew applies the necessary skills they learned at formal film school.

Groundbreaking as Ube may be, their project is in no way a case of artistic adventurism. "We want to be artistic, but hey—we also want to sell. Several Filipino films have gained acclaim abroad but mostly in the experimental, arthouse genre, films that can't cross the line to the commercial market. Our strategy is to make genre films that will appeal to the foreign market."

A spirit of idealism behind the project aims to change the general skepticism that pervades many young people's perceptions about the Philippines today. Shiela points out that Fil-Ams in particular feel a sense of alienation in a culturally confused society. "I want young people to stop bitching about the Philippines, or pretending to be someone else, someone we're not. We hope to bring back a new sense of pride. Yes, we're a hybrid culture, we're a mix of everything—that's the Filipino today." Like the halo-halo indeed, and from the looks of it, Ube could be the ingredient that will make it special.

ROSANNE AND MOON. Jorgen Sampson and Rosanne Prieto

ACTORS INASAL. Sheila Lina with Joel Torre

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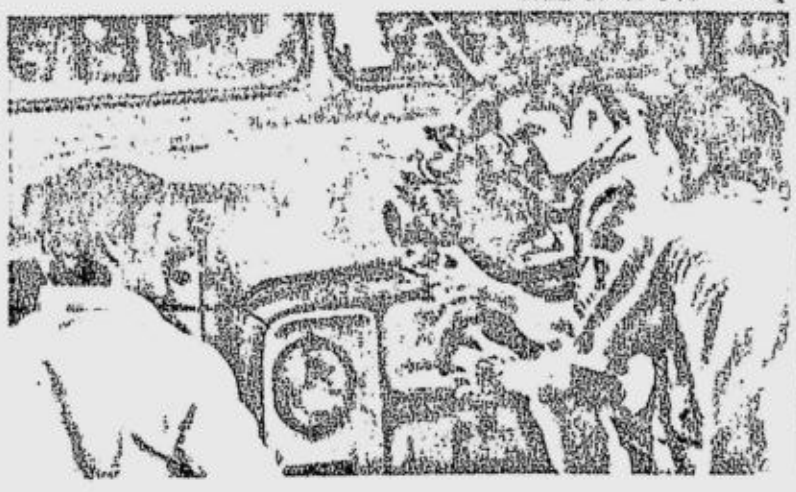
THE KING AND US. Ube Media crew with Bembol Roco



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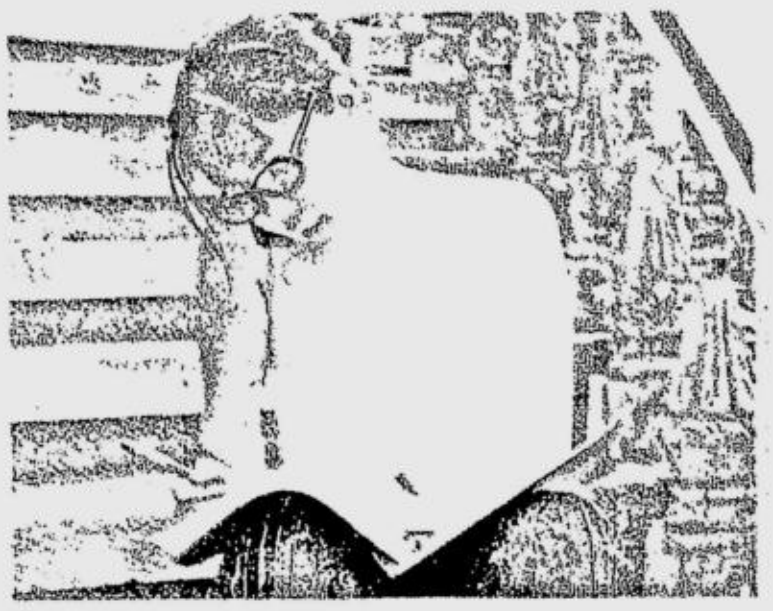
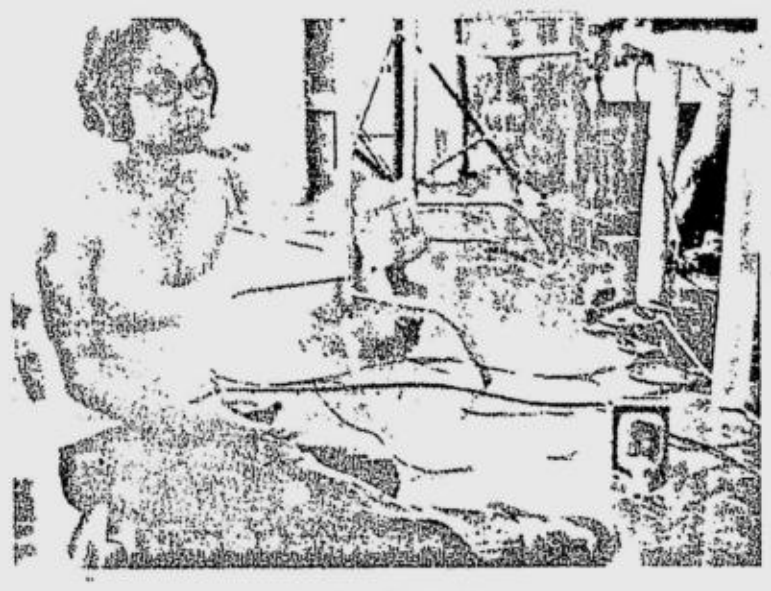
AMERICAN UBE. With Jorgen Sampson, who plays the male lead

UP - does to

By Tals Diaz



IT'S ALL SCRIPTED. From actress to producer to neo global nationalist



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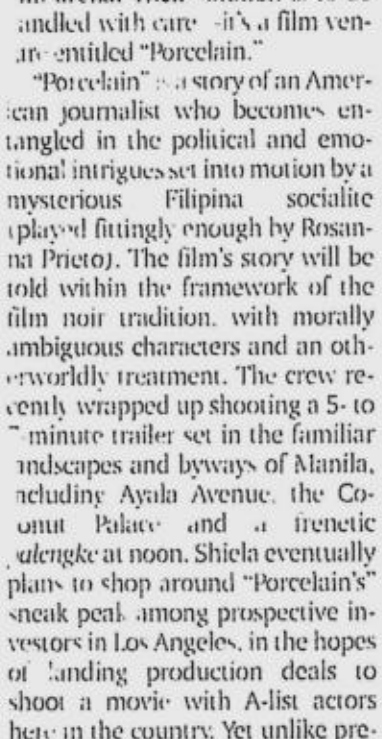

ROSANNE AND MOON. Jorgen Sampson and Rosanne Prieto

ACTORS INASAL. Sheila Lina with Joel Torre

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Rocking Chair
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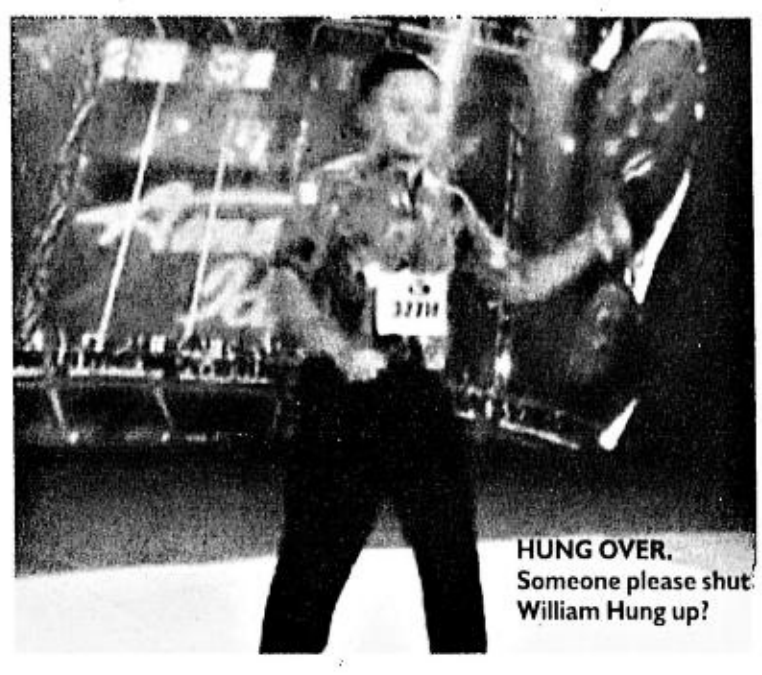
DUMB AND DUMBERER. Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie

TILL SMART DO US BE. Nick and Jessica after reading their first book without pictures



HUNG OVER. Someone please shut William Hung up?

Invasion of the B-Listers

From page 11

watching the scheming pimps and hoes of "For Love or Money 2" frolic towards the end of their token 15 minutes? Date-raped into compliance, our wholesome TV-watching past will never be the same again.

Look at it this way. If "Survivor: Africa" champ Ethan Zohn put up his half-eaten sandwich for auction on eBay, would it sell as much as Justin Timberlake's? Hell no. Accidentally clever PR can't stop fame's revolving door from hitting Zohn's here-today-gone-today ass on his way out. With talent as a mere afterthought, how then do our beloved B-Listers stack up against the legit citizens of Hollywood? Jeez, do they even stack up at all?

Till smart do us be

Sit up, watch, but don't you dare blink. Because fame is fickle, some of Hollywood's top draws are falling to the bottom-rung as well. These celebrities may not chomp a bucket of Madagascar hissing cockroaches for our viewing pleasure, but the shock value of their stupidity is a close second.

Ex-98 Degree Nick Lachey admits their runaway hit show on MTV, "Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica," was created to cement their music careers. At this point, however, he says that they're more known as TV stars than as recording artists. Well, at least he is. Wife Jessica's singing career is on the up owing perhaps to having hay for brains. (She once queried if tuna was a "chicken or fish," and if buffalo wings were from real buffalo. Thank God she's hot.) Another blonde-turned-human wisecrack is airhead heiress Paris Hilton. Previously known only for being really rich and sucking someone's sausage, Paris joins Lionel Richie's daughter Nicole in "The Simple Life," an ode to stupid girls going wild in Middle America. (Paris thought that Wal-Mart was a place where they sold walls. Help.) Despite having IQs that together, can probably be measured on a thermometer, Jessica and Paris had audiences at first "Duh!" How did that happen? Is stupid the new smart?

Given their wealth and/or talent, celebrities like Nick, Jessica, Paris and the Osbournes are the last people you'd think needed the extra exposure. But here they are, living their lives in a proverbial fish bowl just like everyone in B-World They prove that sometimes, the distance from point A to point B is one TV series away.

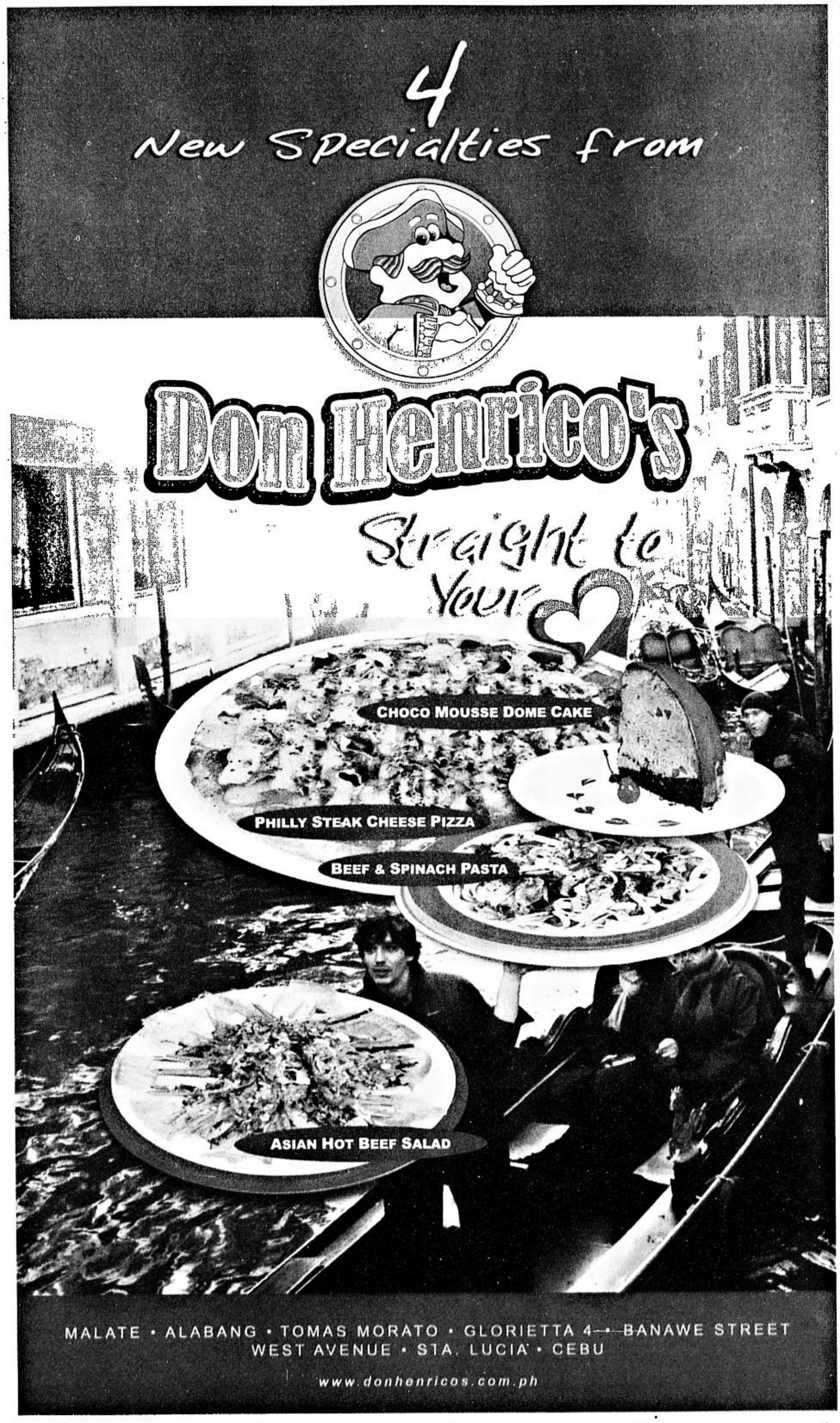
Equal opportunity stardom

It's devastatingly simple to despise the stars of the reality-based genre, but you've got to admit that these flashes-in-the-pan make up for their lack of talent with plenty of balls. Even the seemingly artistic wannabes of "American Idol" are forever bitch-cuffed to the B army because they are publicly and feverishly striving for our approval. There's nothing wrong with determination, but surely one can become a star by not giving head to everyone's egos. That's so B.

A couple of local networks have taken to creating their own brand of fame by plagiarizing the format of "American Idol," which by the way is a retread of the UK's "Pop Stars." Like school pageants with bigger budgets, GMA's "Starstruck" and ABS-CBN's "Star Circle Quest" are raking in the coin because of a simple formula. Since talent search participants are default B-Listers, they do everything in their finite power to entertain the public. By singing, jumping through hoops, and enduring humiliation, the hapless wouldbes spoil their target market by accommodating their voyeuristic needs. In the process, they give a face to the downmarket Pinoy dream. Surely, the masses are empowered by the user-friendliness of the single-serving stars they create for their own consumption. With no one guarding the border to stardom—the local judges are only half-bitchy, boo-urns!—show biz seems to be getting a bit too accessible. Where's the thrill, not to mention the quality, in that?

As a postscript, my instincts are screaming that this whole B-List invasion is a load of crap. But likewise, my guts are telling me that resistance is futile. Everything moves within a context, and these B-Listers are just ambitious extroverts who would have been obscure in a less shameless time. So, if it's indeed true that everyone's a star in his or her own right, we may hit a point when the Bs will overtake the As. After all, aren't B-Listers just slightly less inhibited versions of us?

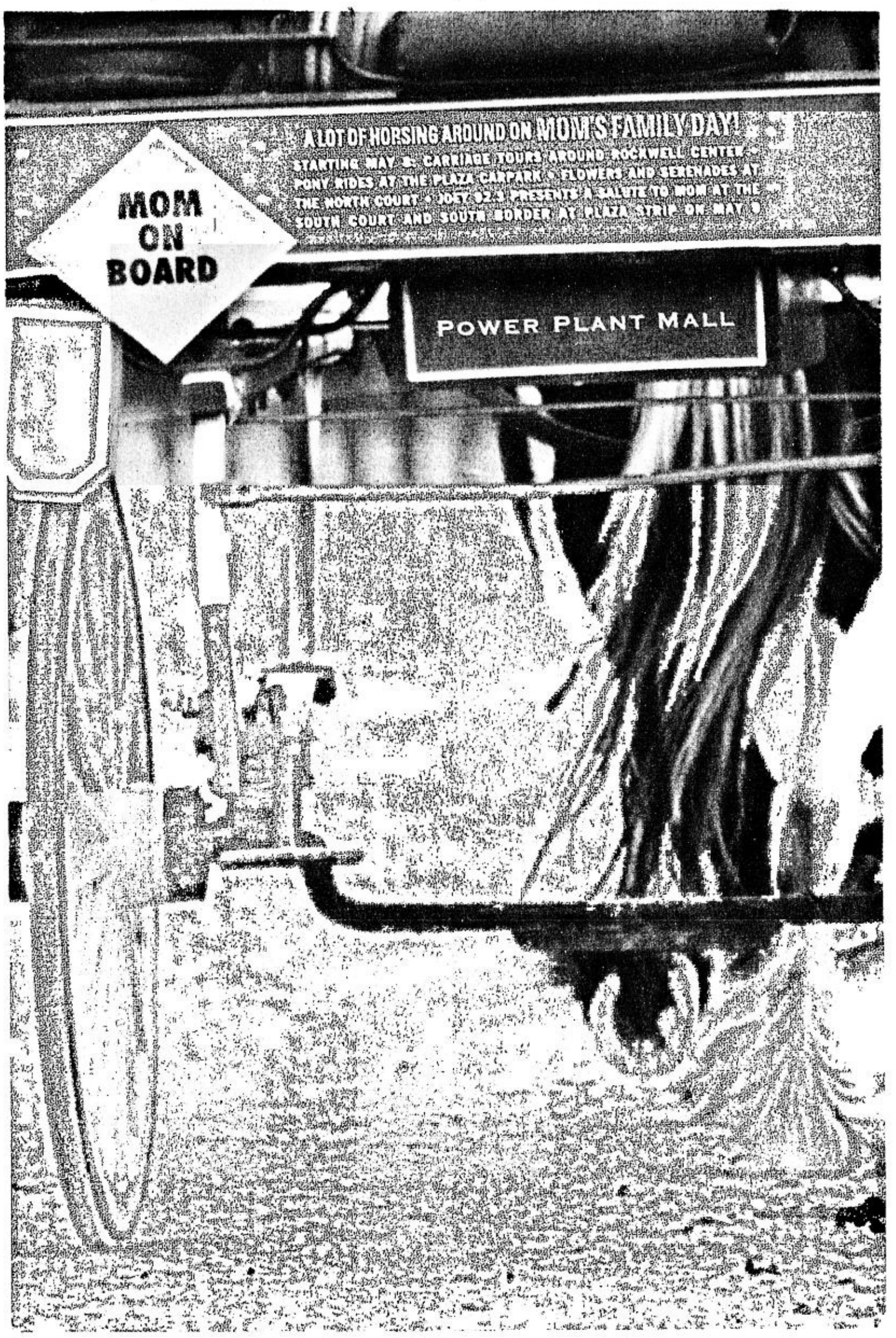
(How well do you know your ABC's? Hit me up at worldclassjackass@yahoo.ca.)



This is a WARNING

THE SEARCH for unbroken ground is never an easy one, and rarely is it even a pretty one. Often, pushing the envelope means we have to suffer a few perspective papercuts in the process. But with a specimen such as Andy Maluche, we at Super! at INQUIRER had little choice but to feature this vagabond of the visual vices. The following pages showcase his unique photographs and philosophies. Some material may offend those faint of heart, but then again, that's the point of art, isn't it? Welcome to Andy Land, fasten your seatbelts, say your prayers, and kiss your pre-conceptions goodbye. You have been WARNED.

Reviews UPCAT and other college entrance tests
(Ateneo, La Salle, UA&P, UST)
Summer Enrichment Courses:
High School Entrance Tests Review
English Conversation
Reading Comprehension
Advanced Math/Science
Creative Writing
Art Class
Guitar Lesson
Diliman Center for Tutorials and Reviews
DCTR
UP Vill., Q.C./Ortigas Center/Bacoor, Cavite/Lipa, Batangas
(02) 928 - 8811; (02) 636 - 6605;
(046) 502 - 6822; (0920) 477 - 8146



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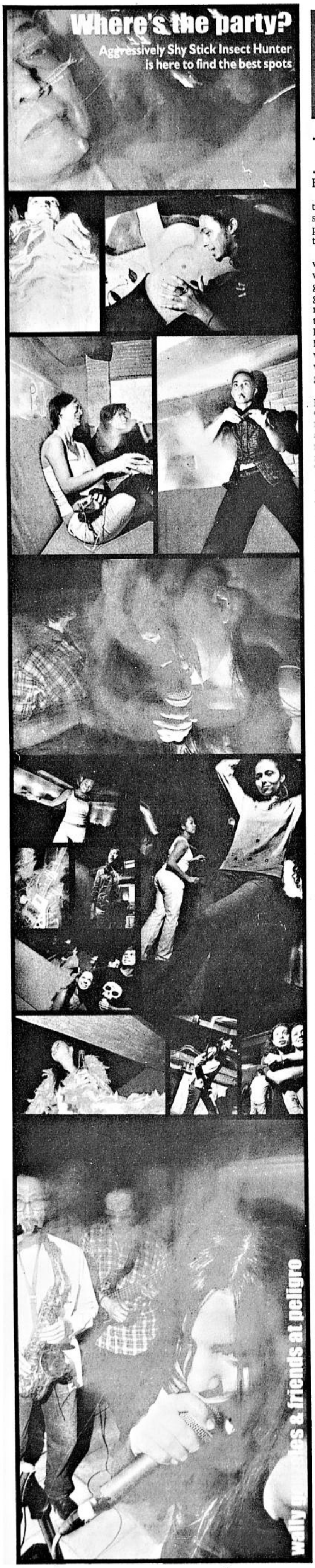
Per DTI NCR Permit No 1334. Series of 2004.



HI, I AM the Aggressively Shy Stick Insect Hunter.

I write, paint and take photos to amuse myself. But I am not a selfish person. I want to share my profound insights with you and the world.

The INQUIRER's Super! was adventurous enough to provide me with an opportunity to do so. I am glad that it did. For a while I was getting worried. First, Manual magazine invited me to write for them and then Urge Magazine. Luckily then came Super! and not Bare or Skin magazine. That would have indicated a trend towards a pre-occupation for self-gratification.

I am an artist by trade and my philosophy is that everything becomes art as long as you do it nonchalantly. I have mastered the art of finding my ass again in the morning after I partied it off the night before. I guess I qualify as a "partist."

Let me explain a little about the stuff I am going to hit you with.

Moonlighting, the extremely prestigious Shy Stick Insect Hunter Moon Award

On my quest to party my way through life, freeloading wherever I can, I, the Aggressively Shy Stick Insect Hunter shied no pain to scout, on your behalf, for the best party spots in town. Only the best of the best will receive the extremely prestigious Shy Stick Insect Hunter Moon Award.

It all started when I got into the habit of taking pictures of my rear at the end of a great party just to check if it is still there. I also tattooed my logo on it to make sure it's what I am hauling home.

If you have a party or a great party place you want me to check out, send me an e-mail at *you-can-look-b@dont-touch-my.com*. Warning: anything you say or do can and will be published.

Notes that I usually find in the back pocket of my jeans

Every time I go out for some blues, beer and billiards, I note down thoughts that hit me between the 4th and the 7th beer.

The next morning I usually find small pieces of yellow pad or crumpled napkins in the back pockets of my jeans. Then begins the tedious task of trying to figure out what they're supposed to mean.

Many are almost unreadable, therefore I started using subtitles. But being able to decipher them doesn't guarantee that they will make any sense.

These are words of wisdom, which usually sound a lot deeper when I conceive them than when I am sober.

Have you ever been caught loving yourself behind the kitchen door?

No? Well, it is a great spot. There are other less ideal places though. I compiled a whole bunch of them for your benefit. I don't want you to get caught in a compromising situation. By all means please avoid all of those:

Unfortunate Choices for Self-Love Hiding Places.

After reading through the foregoing, I am certain you will have some questions for me.

A few of them I can answer straight away: "No I didn't have a difficult childhood, yes I do drink a lot, no I don't have any problems with my sexual orientation and yes, I am assuming that I am from this planet."

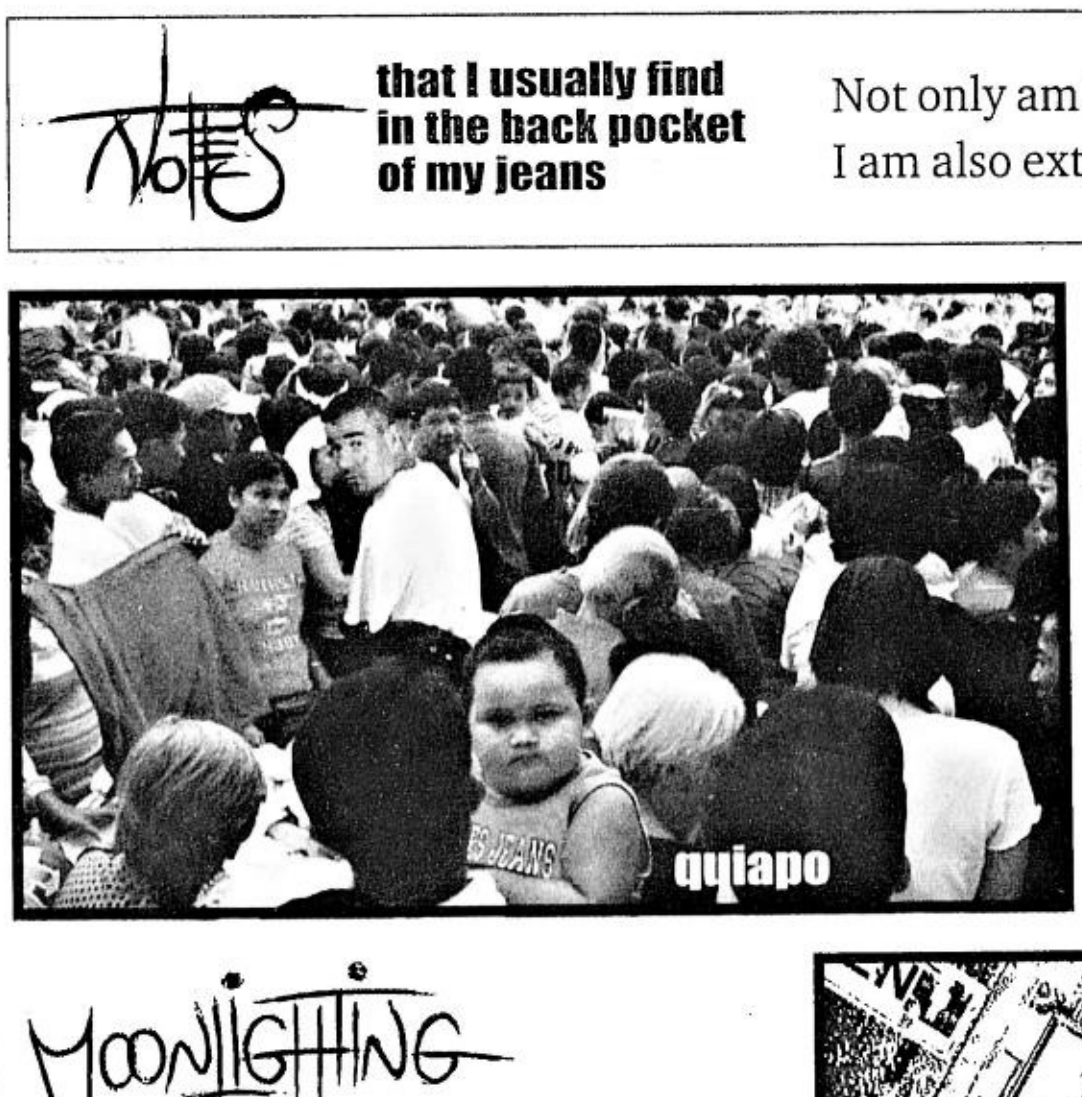
Any other questions, please send them to the me via *you-can-look-b@dont-touch-my.com*. Or post them on my bulletin board: *http://www.dont-touch-my.com/ask*.

I promise I will answer every question and the best ones will get published here under the section: **"Ask the Aggressively Shy Stick Insect Hunter."**

Ask anything, really (I mean it).

Please e-mail me as well for any suggestions, advice and personal insults.

I just looove getting e-mail that fuels the kiln of creativity.

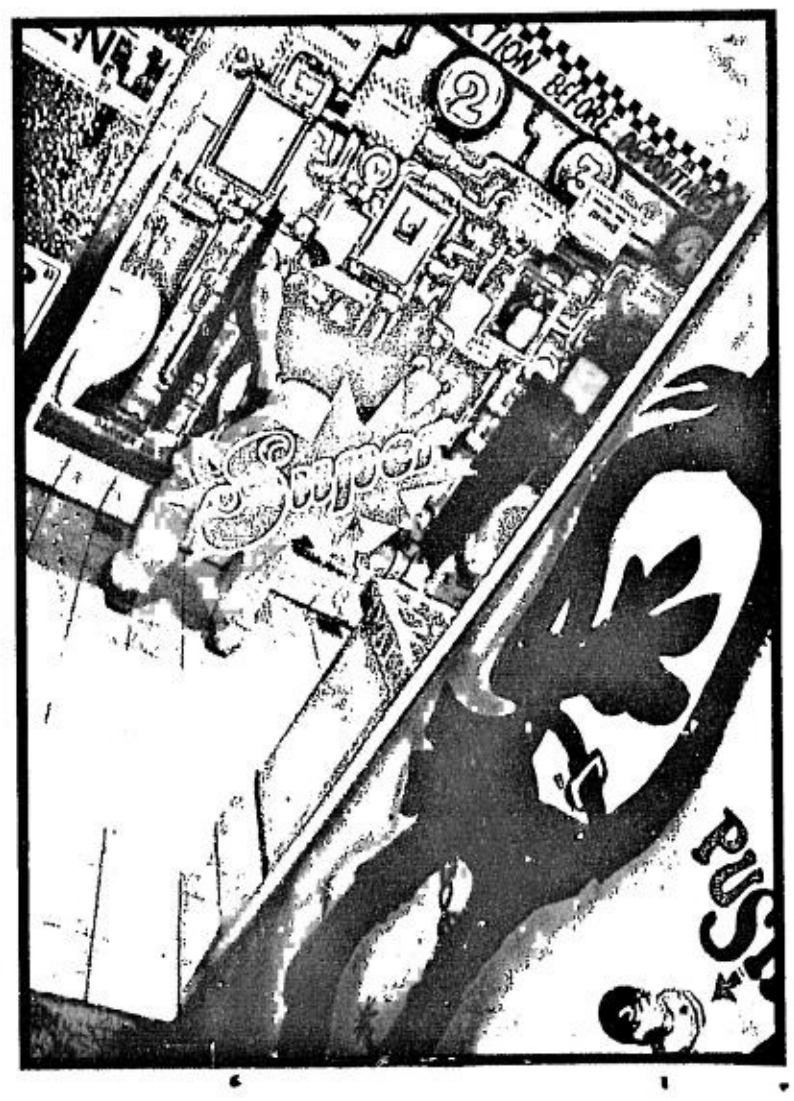


unfortunate choices for Self-Love hiding places

Of all the unfortunate self-love hiding places I have visited and documented, Quiapo is probably the most unfortunate. There are just so many people! Not only is privacy the problem; I also got my cell phone picked from my pocket there.

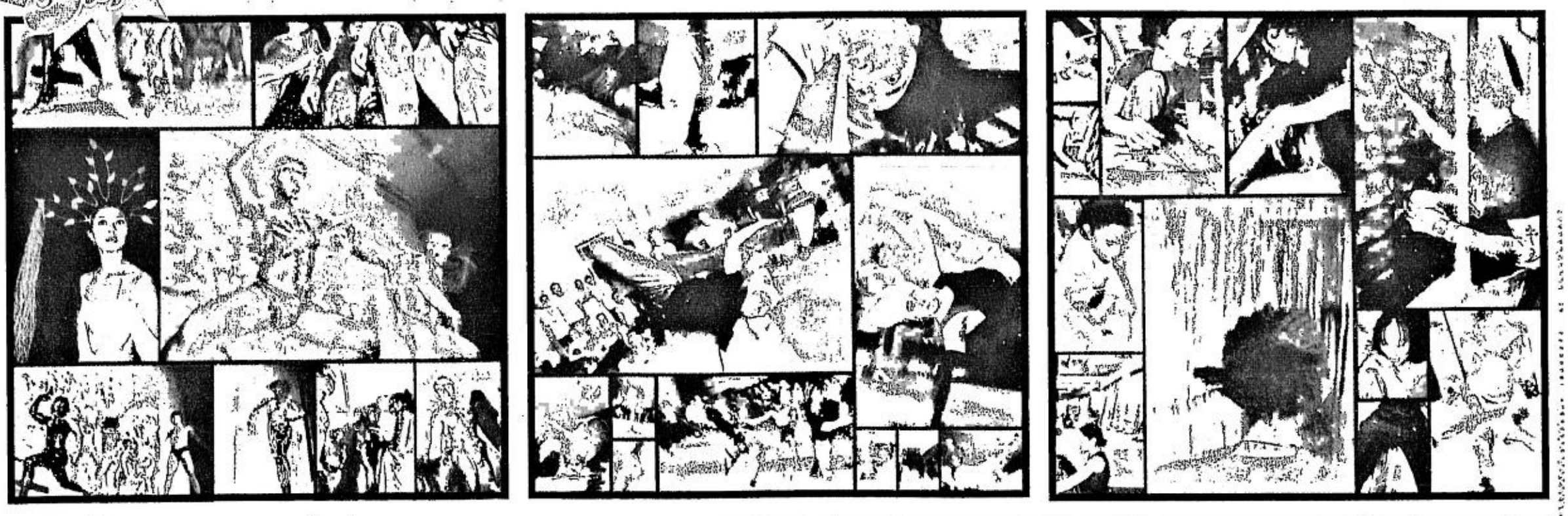
MOONLIGHTING the very prestigious Stick Insect Hunter Moon Award

This week's special goes to : Heckle and Jeckle for the hilariously funny comedy night on Thursday 15th of April 2004, featuring Phil Nichol (Canada) and Silky (England) Agai, if you have a party or a great party place you want me to check out, send me an email: *you-can-look-b@dont-touch-my.com*.



ASK the Aggressively Shy Stick Insect Hunter

Kat DeLeon : **Dear ASSIH, why are you such a great guy?**
ASSIH : Dear Kat, because deep down inside I am a very humble person.
Dante Austero : **Dear ASSIH, If you were going to turn to crime to support yourself from now on, what kind of criminal would you become?**
ASSIH: Dear Dante, I would probably become a politician. It doesn't matter if you get caught. You can wiggle your way out of it.



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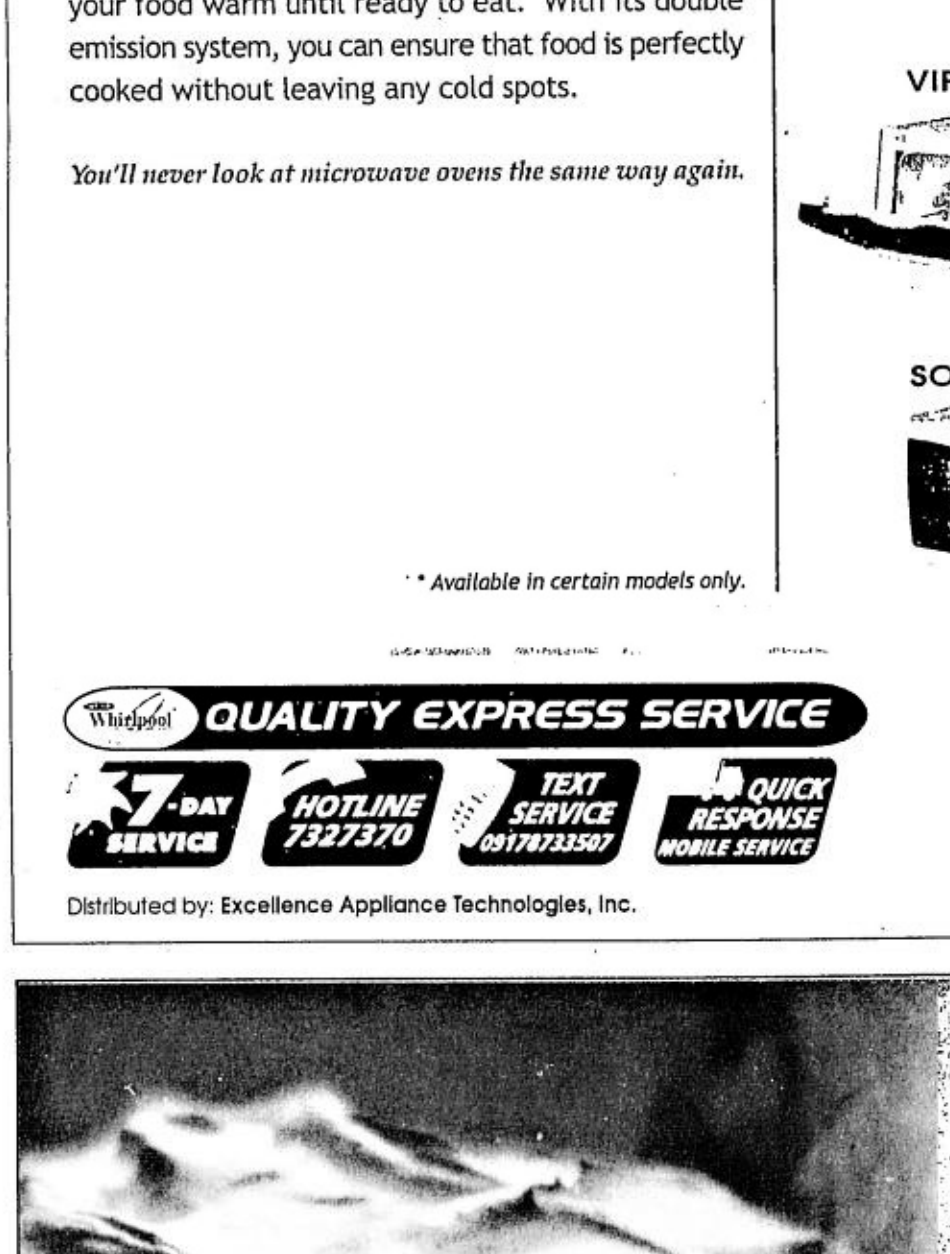

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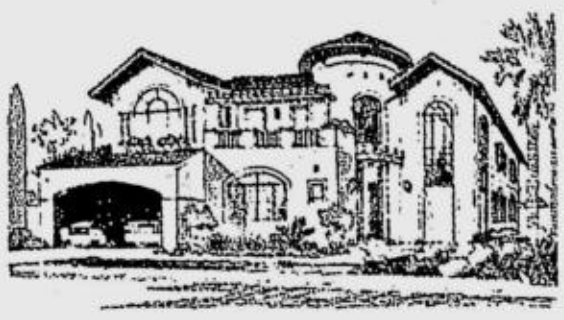
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1334 Series of 2004

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino brings the outdoors, indoors

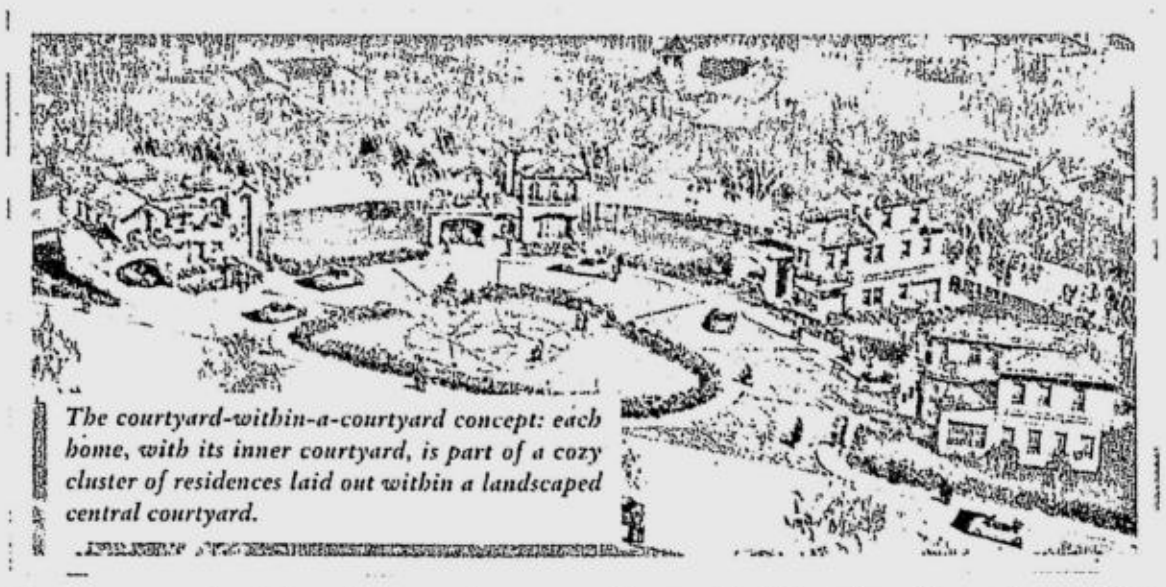
Brittany Corporation, the country's pioneer in creating uniquely themed properties, recreates the finest of Italian living in Courtyards of Portofino.

Only minutes away from the Alabang Commercial Center, Courtyards of Portofino is the high-end residential enclave that brings to reality a "courtyard-within-a-courtyard" concept, an ingenious design exclusive to Brittany.

Every home features its own inner courtyard. The homes themselves are laid out within a landscaped central courtyard.



Rembrandt, the most spacious Portofino Courtyard residence, exudes a sense of comfort and taste, for living on a grand scale.



The courtyard-within-a-courtyard concept: each home, with its inner courtyard, is part of a cozy cluster of residences laid out within a landscaped central courtyard.

The open space of each home's courtyard ranges between 20 to 30 sq. m., allowing for natural light and cool air. This means the courtyards provide for the benefits of the outdoors, indoors.

The architectural features of the courtyard homes are distinctly Italian. Porticos, arches resting on columns that frame hallways surround the courtyard. Some units feature *casitas*, rooms at the ground level ideal for staying guests.

Rounded balconies, high ceilings, and majestic cupolas enhance the Italian look and feel of the courtyard homes, alongside the gardens, fountains, benches and cobblestone-accented streets.

Courtyards of Portofino offers a choice of four types of homes, each named after a European master artist, befitting the craftsmanship of each design.

- Cezanne, with a floor area of 193 sq. m., has a master's bedroom with a balcony, and a walk-in closet separating the bedroom from the toilet and bath.
- Monet, with bigger space, has a floor area of 233 sq. m. The house includes a *casita* on the ground floor and provisions for a family area on the third floor.
- Raphael, with a floor area of 249 sq. m., is a four-bedroom home with a family area on the third floor. Its courtyard connects to a lanai.
- Rembrandt, the most spacious model, has a floor area of 260 sq. m. The residence is accented with a trellis on the side of the "Balcon Arrandi" (rounded balcony) out in front. Inside, the staircase overlooks a cathedral-type window.

One of four ongoing developments of Brittany Corporation, Portofino, Italian for fine gateway, takes its name from the charming seaport town in southern Italy. Brittany's Portofino is aptly named, being strategically located near the Alabang entrance of the new Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite Link Road.

The courtyard homes offer the beneifits of the outdoors indoors including natural light and ventilation.

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At Courtyards of Portofino, you can enjoy a breath of fresh air just by staying at home. The inner courtyard, a wide open space, lets in cool air and natural light. Surrounding the courtyard are porticos, arches found in classic Italian homes. Through the courtyard, you have access to the *casitas*, ground level rooms ideal for your guests. Outside, the cobblestone-accented roads and the flowers in terra cotta pots enhance the property's old world charm.

Moreover, the courtyard homes surround bigger, central courtyards. This makes for a courtyard-within-a-courtyard, an ingenious design that is uniquely Brittany.

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Brittany CORPORATION

The Vote is sinking

Dear Man About Town,

I admire your writing and I think you are one of the few writers out there who can be entertaining and educational at the same time. That said, I wonder if you can help me with a problem that's been bugging me for the last few months. Only days before the national elections, I still don't know who the best person for the job is. Who do you think I should vote for?

Man about town

Chuck Dy

JOAQUIN is dead. Long live Joaquin. I am gratified that you hold me in such high esteem as a writer. I do my best to reply to readers' questions with as little diplomacy and as much panache as I can muster. It is only right that I pay homage to one of the writers that I consider a true master of the craft, one whose brio and brilliance have inspired many a penpusher not only to shape words and worlds, but also to have the literature shape them. A week ago, I would have, in an effort parallel to the Colombian attempt to emulate Gabriel Garcia Marquez, proclaimed Nick Joaquin as the ideal leader to shepherd this nation towards greener pastures, knowing full well he would have dismissed such an honor just as his South American counterpart had done. He no longer breathes the air in this world, and I realize now that Nick Joaquin would never have accepted the Presidency simply because he had long ago achieved apotheosis of a much greater status.

I should note here that I have utilized this humble space to answer inquiries ranging from equine nomenclature to premature ejaculation, but never before have I been faced with a more asinine question. How would I know who you should vote for? My forte is re-

THE VOTE/ K3

DIGITAL ARTWORK BY MARTIN VALDES

A POWER-FLOWER puzzle

GOLF WITH BALLS. Budi Kusuma, Paul Monozca, John Havliceck and Lucio Tan Jr.

SUPERMODEL Hanis Hussey

LAM Chi Beng has the longest ... drive

JOHNNY Litton in his winning form

MICHAEL Campbell of NZ gets serious

CHINA'S Sarah Wong and Hong Kong action star Michael Wong

SUSI Susanti and Marie Monozca

Singa - FORE!

By Martin Valdes

SOME of us may never be as good as Tiger Woods or Jennifer Rosales. But that shouldn't stop us from trying. I touched down in sweltering Singapore last month to try my darndest.

The biggest international celebrity golf event in the region, the annual Caltex Cup Celebrity Challenge kicked off on March 13 at the prestigious Laguna National Golf & Country Club in Singapore in aid of several charities, including the Dr. AB Monozca Foundation. Over 40 personalities from eight countries were flown in by Singapore Airlines (the foie gras of airline companies, in my opinion) to participate in this two-day, invitation-only competition. Actors, politicians, media personalities, models, powerful businessmen, junior golfers and professional golfers were all on the roster to tee-off. Last year, ex-President Fidel Ramos represented the Philippines. I'm not quite sure why I was invited.

On the taxi ride from the airport to the prestigious Raffles Hotel (where all the participants were graciously accommodated), the driver eagerly inquired if I was an actor from Manila. I said I was a writer. He stopped talking to me. I took this opportunity to observe the symmetrical aesthetic and unnerving cleanliness of the city state.

The tournament is patterned after the Ryder Cup—two celebrities playing in each team partnered with golf pros and businessmen. For those not familiar with this format, it basically means you get to screw up at the expense of your partners. My lucky golf buddy was none other than Manila's man-about-town, Johnny Litton. He took one look at me and I could tell he wondered why the hell FVR couldn't make it.

The Caltex VIP hospitality tent overlooking the 18th green of the masters course was abuzz with personalities: NBA great John Havliceck of the Boston Celtics, Manchester United's Lee Sharpe, Hollywood Hong Kong action star Michael Wong, South African Rugby hall of famer Joel Stransky, Singapore television actor James Lye, World Badminton Champions Alan Budi Kusuma & Susi Susanti, fashion models Hanis Hussey, Geri Cho & Michelle Saram. There was also a generous bevy of Tiger Beer models. Beer, babes and balls -- what more could a golfer want? Oh yeah, a victory.

Speaking of which, although we didn't win the tournament, Johnny Litton did provide one of the weekend's most entertaining moments by winning the Closest-to-the-Pin chipping contest. The man was incredible—he downed two beers, got the crowd cheering, and proceeded to beat a field of nearly 40 competitors by placing a 50-yard chip shot over water about a foot from the hole.

I didn't get to stay for the awarding ceremony but I heard it was a blast. Hosted at the Raffles Hotel and themed after "Havana Nights," the party had celebrities trying their luck at baccarat tables and roulette, while Tiger Beer and high-energy music fueled the evening. Auctioneer par excellence Justin Simpson of ESPN led the fund-raising activities together with Philip Leishman. Some of the sports celebrities contributed by providing coaching clinics at the Singapore American School -- it was three days of fun-filled activities.

This is an event truly worthy of attention. It's good fun with great people, and it's all for a noble cause. Some of us may never be as good as Tiger, or Jennifer, or even Johnny for that matter, but that doesn't mean we should stop trying. I'm looking forward to being mistaken for a celebrity again next year.

GOLF for a good cause

The Caltex Cup Celebrity Challenge 2004

GOLF for a great cause

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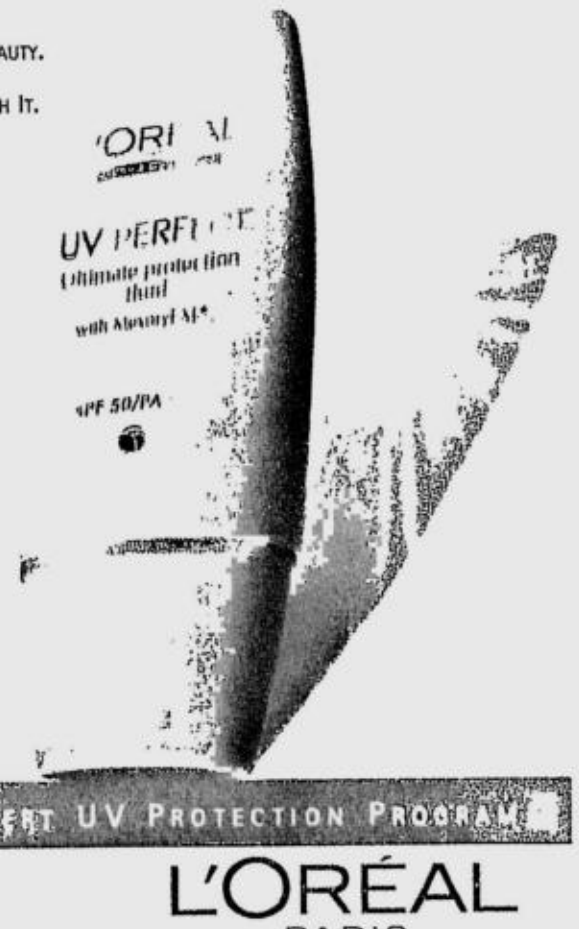

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0418 Series of 2004

The Vote is sinking

From page K1

lationship problems, sexual dysfunctions and Kris Aquino's nuances. I am a verbal surgeon of the body eclectic, and my specialty is the large intestine of society. I locate vowels in the bowels, witty pieces in the feces, prose in the lactose intolerance of this sick, sick world. I talk about shit. What do I know of politics? Oh wait... I get it.

That's entertainment!

What a movie we would make! Flashback to the year of our Lord 1998: The United States is experiencing an economic boom, Afghanistan is ruled by the Taliban, N'SYNC dominates the pop charts, and the Philippines is revving up for another circus of an election. Six years have changed much of the global script but, unfortunately, not enough. Once again, the Filipino people are faced with a national decision with enough drama, comedy and tragedy to shame the Academy Awards. On the outcome hinges the next six years as well as a considerable amount of influence on whatever future the nation hopes to enjoy. The protagonists have played their parts to the hilt, the chorus has faithfully exacerbated the sentiment, and all hold their breath anticipating the moment of revelation. Who will be King/Queen of the World? Who is the Keyser Soze of this plot? Can he/she really see dead people? And who are those dead people going to vote for?

Let us indulge in a pleasant fiction. An ideal president would have several qualities of note, including charisma to sway the citizenry, integrity to refuse a bribe, vision to maneuver a nation, wisdom to think globally, patriotism to consider locally, experience to manage the unexpected, intelligence to learn from inexperience, grace to admit limitations, resilience to persevere in spite of limitations, and courage to be unfashionable and, if necessary, to stand alone. Imagine Mother Teresa with a Harvard diploma and a Filipino passport.

Let's take a look at what we've currently got.

Okay, now we can look away again.

Most of the candidates would, of course, stake claim to several, if not all, those noble characteristics. Perspective, after all, is a convenient opiate. The truth of the matter is, each candidate is banking on his or her particular strengths to accommodate their questionable weaknesses in other departments. For the sake of my continued health, I will refrain from identifying them by name.

We have the incumbent with the juggernaut of administration behind her, brandishing experience and political savvy like a massive sword. We have the actor who portrays celluloid heroes, waving his sword tempered in the flames of popularity and forged from the steel of ... of... I'm not sure yet (but the "steel" will be revealed, it is promised, as soon as he wins). We have the academic, armed with the three-pronged trident of the collegiate, the feminists and the idealists, who valiantly perseveres in spite of the incredible odds. We have the man of God, who wields the mace of moral certitude and the shield of political disassociation. We have the senator, cracking the flail of a dark horse warrior, vowing changes enforced by rigid justice. These are the gladiators who are doing battle, and we who populate the coliseum shall decide their fate. Are you not entertained?

Ballot, Pinoy

An election should not be about entertainment, but this *is* the Philippines, and amusement is accepted as part and parcel of our lives. But imagine for once that we took ourselves seriously, and that we were willing to distill to the very essence of leadership what it is we want for this country. We want a change for the better. We want to enjoy a progress that accelerates consistently. We want to live in safety to raise our families. We want Nick Joaquin canonized and *tapsilog* available across all seven thousand islands. We want this vision to be sustainable. Ultimately, we want to be proud to be Filipino. The answer then to your question should be equated to another question: Which of the candidates will make us proud to be Filipino?

Sadly, most voters have adopted the attitude of settling for the candidate who will humiliate us the least. But optimism need not necessarily be a red herring. We should focus on the good and beautiful and true aspects of the Philippines, no matter how obscured our vision may be by the constant pollution to our national perception. We should identify what it is that we love about this country. And then consider who comes closest to embodying all those qualities, and vote for the personification of that ideal. It has to be someone actually running for President, so Maui Taylor is not an option.

I haven't answered your question suitably, I admit. But politics, like religion, is a highly personal practice with a much publicized social aspect. At the core of it, the decision lies within the individual, who should not be hampered by affiliations from friends, family, or advice columnists. So go ahead, ask me about venereal diseases, bizarre fetishes or the deteriorating geometry of breast implants. But who should you vote for this election? I don't know, buddy, I just don't know.

(E-mail the author at bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com)

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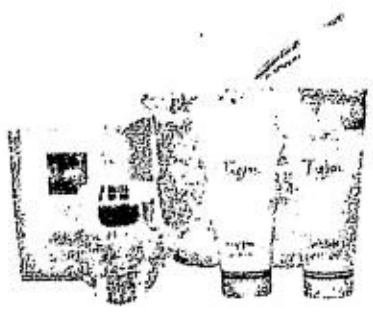

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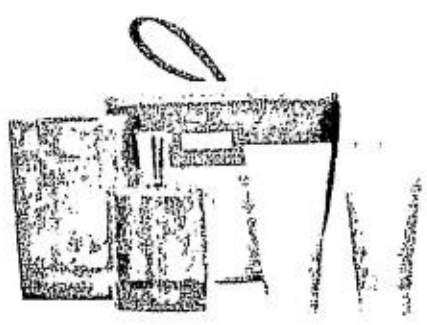

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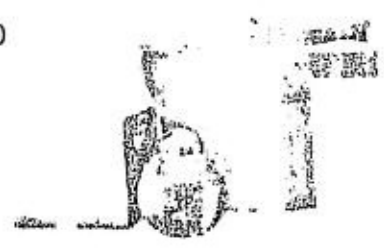

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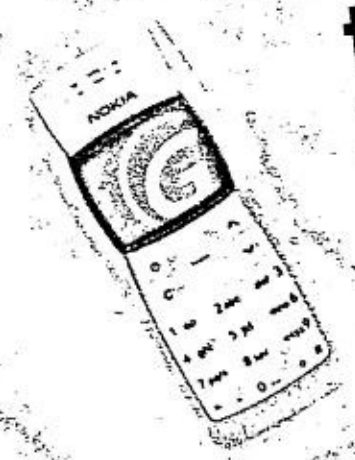

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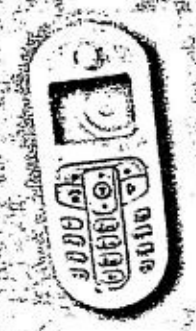

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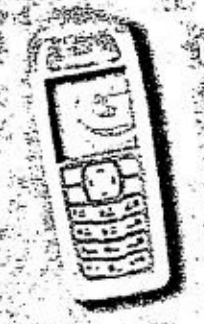

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ELEKSYON 2004

INQUIRER/GMA-7: Full election coverage is in the details

■ News / A20

A complete listing of party-list groups

■ Magazine / Q1

Willie Nep for Prez

Mothers' Day: This lady is supermom to 26 children

By Eline Santos

THIS SUPERMOM takes care of 26 children whom she mothers as God calls her to.

But she says she's far from perfect.

"People seem to think that just because I have 26 kids, I must be perfect," says Terrie Yandall. "I just have 26 more opportunities to

MOTHERS'/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

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COFFEE/ A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday, May 9, 2004 ★★ 120 pages / 17 sections / vol. 19 / no. 151 P18

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■ World / A8

Rumsfeld apologizes, takes responsibility but will not resign

ELEKSYON 2004

INQUIRER/GMA-7: Full election coverage is in the details

■ News / A20

A complete listing of party-list groups

■ Magazine / Q1

Willie Nep for Prez

Mothers' Day: This lady is supermom to 26 children

By Eline Santos

THIS SUPERMOM takes care of 26 children whom she mothers as God calls her to.

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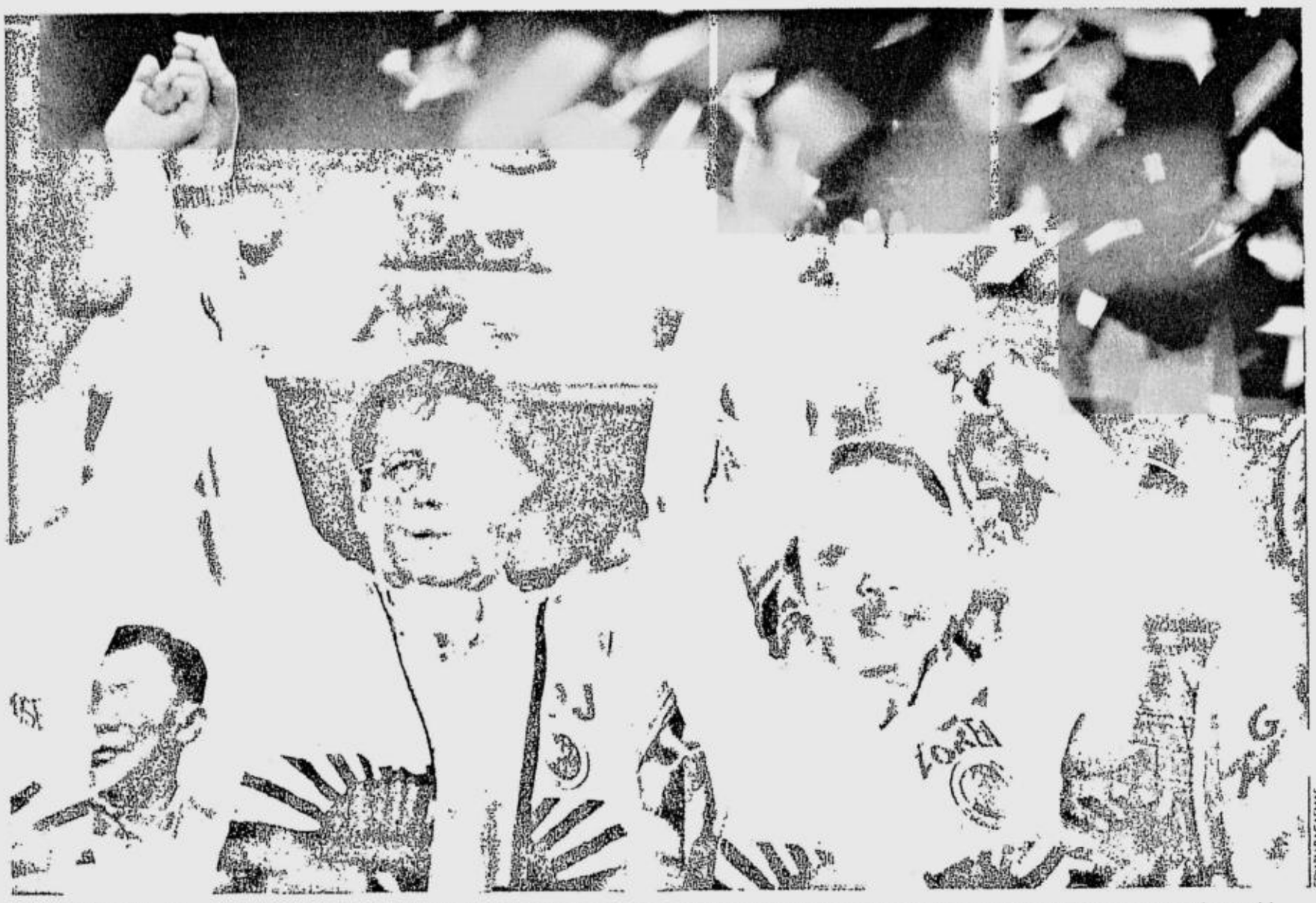

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/05/09/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Guardians: JDV behind sample ballots

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—The Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI) yesterday accused Speaker Jose de Venecia of being the brains behind the printing of sample ballots junking opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I suspect De Venecia and some other sinister groups could be responsible for spreading speculations that we have dropped Poe in favor of the President. That is simply not true. This is just one of de Venecia's innuendos," Ernesto Macahiya, spokesperson of the Guardians, told the INQUIRER.

Macahiya stressed that their group and Sen. Gergorio Honasan would be "sticking it out with Poe no matter what happens in this elections."

Misinformation

He blamed De Venecia for spreading the misinformation after sample ballots supposedly printed by the PGBI endorsed Ms Macapagal and De Castro as their president and vice president, respectively.

Macahiya said they have never sanctioned the printing of any sample ballots of their group with the names of other candidates. He said their group did not have funds to order the printing of some 500,000 sample ballots.

"We have not ordered the printing of even a single sample ballot. All our campaign funds came from our friends and supporters who believe in our cause," he claimed.

Macahiya said their presence at Poe's *miting de avance* yesterday at Ayala Avenue would dispel accusations that they had abandoned the opposition.

"They just wanted to put Honasan and the PGBI in a bad light. They are out to destroy our integrity," Macahiya said.

He said De Venecia simply "wanted to put Honasan on the (spot)" after their covenant signing with the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats last Tuesday.

Above partisan politics

"What we have discussed with De Venecia is far and above partisan politics. The meeting was more about securing the votes for every candidate and not about switching of camps," he added.

He also hit the supposed insider from Honasan's office who claimed to have knowledge of the printing of the sample ballots.

"Using an alleged insider is a very convenient and usual excuse. That supposed insider could have been from the administration," he said.

The PGBI, which claims to have 1.2 million members and supporters, is the largest of the nine major factions of the Guardians, a group of mostly retired uniformed personnel and civilians.

'Deliberate sabotage'

The Guardians party-list group listed Honasan as its first nominee and Macahiya its second. The two and several other PGBI members are facing charges of rebellion following the Oakwood mutiny in July last year.

Macahiya said it is also possible that the Guardians faction of retired Col. Billy Bibit could be behind "this deliberate sabotage." He claimed Bibit and his group were furious at them after the Commission on Elections denied his (Bibit) bid to run for the party-list system also using the name "Guardians."

Admission

Macahiya, however, admitted that he knew some politicians had donated sample ballots to PGBI bearing the politicians' names. Although he declined to identify the candidates, Macahiya said he had seen sample ballots showing PGBI as the party-list candidate and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and Amina Rasul as senator.

He said more and more candidates are becoming aware that the PGBI is a big voting bloc. He said several candidates, especially in the local levels, have approached them and sought their support.

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia in a huddle with Sen. Gregorio Honasan, national chair and president of Philippine Guardians Brotherhood, during signing of agreement for good governance, and for free, honest, transparent and non-violent elections in the May 10 political exercise. The event was held at Club Filipino in San Juan, Metro Manila. JOAN BONDOC

Bleeding Abalos rushed to hospital

By Martin Marfil

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos was rushed last night to the Manila Doctors Hospital shortly after passing out while at the Comelec office.

Comelec employees said Abalos' nose was bleeding when he was brought to the hospital.

Doctors ruled out a heart problem as the cause of the bleeding, saying it could be a gastro-intestinal ailment.

Abalos had just arrived at the Comelec from the Supreme Court where he attended the hearing on the controversial Comelec quick count when he passed out while waiting for the elevator. He was brought to the hospital aboard his Pajero SUV.

After regaining consciousness on the way to the hospital, Abalos was able to talk to a television reporter.

"I'm okay. *Di lang ako nakapananghalian* (I just missed my lunch). *Alam ko lang sakit ng tiyan, yun pala* (I thought it was just a stomachache, but then) I was already bleeding. *Huwag kayo mag-alala* (Don't worry) the elections will go on, will proceed on May 10," Abalos said.

"Kung kailangan ngayong gabi lumabas ako dito, lalabas na tayo. Ilang gabi na tayo walang tulog, gumigising nang maaga. Pero walang problema kayang-kaya... mamaya lang lalabas na tayo kung ayaw nila, pupuslit na tayo (If I have to check out tonight, I will. For the past few nights, I didn't sleep, and had to wake up early. But, no problem, it's manageable... I will check out, if they (doctors) won't let me, I will escape)," he added.

Abalos admitted that he passed out after his nose bled. "I was bleeding, so I was brought here," he said, adding that the same thing happened to him when he was younger. Abalos has a history of ulcer.

Abalos was rushed to the hospital at 6:35 p.m. Some of those seen at the emergency room of the hospital were his son, Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, other relatives and reporters. Some Comelec officials were also spotted in the crowd.

The younger Abalos said his father was now in stable condition. ***With a report from Luigi del Puerto***

As ratings dip, Noli decries 'black prop'

WITH HIS poll ratings dropping fast amid allegations of corruption, Sen. Noli de Castro yesterday decried as "black propaganda and lies" published advertisements in newspapers that cast doubt on his integrity and honesty.

De Castro blamed his opponent, Sen. Loren Legarda, without naming her, for the full-page advertisements which appeared as a collage of newspaper articles portraying him as an "extortionist," "blackmailer," among other things.

In the latest poll survey by the Social Weather Stations, De Castro's edge over Legarda had narrowed to only 4 percent with only two days left before the elections. From the previous 43.9 percent, De Castro's rating slid to 43 percent. In contrast, Legarda's rating surged from 35.5 percent to 39 percent with 14 percent of voters still undecided.

Both Legarda and De Castro are former news readers of broadcast giant ABS-CBN.

In a statement, De Castro said he had hoped for a clean and orderly campaign where issues and platforms would be discussed. "However, my opponent has chosen to destroy my reputation, besmirch my name and dragged my family into politics," he said in Filipino.

De Castro accused his closest rival of spending P10 million in one day to dish out "lies" against him, saying the amount should have been spent instead to build classrooms and provide public services.

Apparently hurt by the accusations, De Castro said he has maintained a clean campaign and has refused to be dragged and pulled down to the level his opponents have gone.

De Castro assured the public that he has been in public service for 25 years and has never compromised his integrity and principle.

He emphasized that the public knows the truth and cannot be swayed by the "lies and black propaganda" peddled by his opponent.

To his opponent, De Castro had this to say: "I will not be affected by whatever black propaganda and demolition jobs that you created. I will remain steadfast in my wholehearted, honest, and fervent service to the public."

Sy buys Yuchengco stake in Chinabank

By Doris C. Dumlao

WHILE HIS takeover bid of Equitable PCI Bank still hangs, retail magnate Henry Sy has acquired majority control of China Banking Corp. with the purchase of the 12.68 percent stake of the Yuchengco Group of Companies (YGC) for about P2.5 billion.

The acquisition would raise the stake of the Sy family in Chinabank from 41 percent to 53.68 percent. Prior to the purchase, Sy was already the single biggest stockholder of the bank.

In a statement, YGC yesterday said it had recently entered into a memorandum of agreement to sell its stake in Chinabank to Sy's SM Investments Corp.

INQUIRER sources said the bloc was priced at a little over P2.5 billion or roughly P650 per share, based on Chinabank's current market capitalization of P20-P25 billion. Shares of China Bank closed at P685 on Friday.

Sources said the MOA was signed yesterday morning at the Peninsula Hotel Manila, with Banco de Oro Universal Bank chair Teresita Sy-Coson representing the Sy family and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chair Rizalino Navarro and Yvonne Yuchengco representing YGC. The financial closing is expected to take place next week.

"The Yuchengcos have been shareholders in CBC for almost 30 years. YGC, however, considers the move a step further in consolidating its investments in one of its flagship companies, RCBC and its subsidiaries and affiliates," the YGC statement said.

Gabriel Singson's role

Banking sources said former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Gabriel Singson was instrumental in closing the deal.

Sources said Singson, a close friend of both taipans Henry Sy and Alfonso Yuchengco, had advised the latter to sell his 12.68 percent stake in Chinabank and focus instead on strengthening RCBC.

The deal is widely expected to result in a merger with BDO in the future, but the SM group was quick to assure that this would not result in any change in management control of Chinabank within the next two years.

"There is no need to change management. They are doing very well," said a banking source who was privy to the deal.

The Dee family, which founded Chinabank in 1920, has continued to manage the bank even when it had less than a 10 percent stake in the bank over the last few years.

Chinabank, which boasts of one of the highest returns on equity ratios, is the 12th biggest bank in the country with assets worth of P106.6 billion as of the first quarter of this year. In 2003, Chinabank chalked up a record net income of P2.63 billion.

BDO, on the other hand, is ranked 8th, with total assets of P151.5 billion.

"It makes sense to solidify the holdings. It's now just a question of when is the right time to merge. When that opportunity comes, it will be easy to do because the shareholding control is clear," said a source from the SM group.

The merger will happen, the source said, when the two banks' business cultures become more suitable for integration.

The SM source also said the group was still working on its purchase of a controlling stake in Equitable PCI Bank, the country's third biggest lender, but it was premature to talk of any merger soon.

The deal to buy the 29 percent stake of the Social Security System in Equitable PCI is still awaiting clearance from the Department of Justice. Sen. Serge Osmeña III had questioned the transaction for lack of public bidding.

If a three-way merger between Chinabank, Equitable PCI and BDO happens in the future, the SM group would end up with the biggest banking conglomerate in the country.

Our population clock is ticking...

As we went to press this midnight, there were 84019826 Filipinos.
In just 30 years, there will be 169033148 Filipinos--
if government fails to act.

Voters, You have the power to choose candidates who support population management and family planning!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PCCI COMMITTEE ON POPULATION, CSR AND GOVERNANCE ♦ MAY 9, 2004

Yorac to quit at the height of her success

By Dona Pazzibugan

JUST WHEN the Presidential Commission on Good Government was riding high on the wave of its major court victories, its Chair Haydee Yorac is seriously considering quitting her post.

Yorac is thinking of returning to private practice purely for financial reasons.

She said private practice pays much better than working for the government.

"I'm serious (about leaving PCGG) no matter who wins the elections," Yorac said in a recent interview.

"It's just me. It's what I need. It's not possible that I would always sacrifice (my personal needs)," she said.

It was during Yorac's term that the PCGG made significant inroads in its 17-year battle to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies.

Appointed PCGG chair two years ago, Yorac set her sights on recovering the $683 million secret Swiss deposits of Marcos and former first lady Imelda Marcos, and the coco levy assets from Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

After getting a final ruling from the Supreme Court, the PCGG last February turned over to the national treasury the $683 million (roughly P38 billion) in ill-gotten Swiss deposits of the Marcoses.

The PCGG also scored in the Sandiganbayan, which upheld the government's majority ownership of the United Coconut Planters Bank and on Friday, the 27 percent bloc of coconut farmers in San Miguel Corp.

The anti-graft court ruled that these assets were bought with the coco levy imposed on hundreds of thousands of small coconut farmers during martial law.

The funds were administered by Cojuangco whose 20 percent SMC shares were also claimed by the government for allegedly being part of the coco levy assets.

Yorac came close to death last year after suffering a stroke and a bout with cancer and other complications. She a only returned to work after a lengthy stay in hospital and extended therapy.

She said it was fortunate that she had enough savings since she spent for her own medical expenses.

If she would leave PCGG, Yorac said she would recommend her replacement. *With AFP*

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Poe to pull off movie ending, says Sotto

By Carlito Pablo

ALL IT needs is an FPJ movie ending.

Actor Fernando Poe Jr. has lost the surveys and the endorsement of bloc-voting religious groups. He has been rejected by both the Left and influential business groups. His political machinery is limping and gasping for funds.

But as far as the actor's camp is concerned, Monday's elections will have the typical FPJ movie ending—the underdog will emerge victorious just before the final credits.

"Parang pelikula 'yan. Siya ang ginugulpi sa umpisa pero sa huli siya ang manggugulpi, (It's like a movie. He's beaten up at the beginning, but in the end, he's the one beating them up)," according to Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III.

As reelectionist opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. put it: "FPJ will pull off a surprise."

Pimentel conceded that this year's presidential contest will be a "tight race" between Poe and President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has the surveys going for her as well as the endorsements of the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai.

Sotto, who has served as Poe's principal drumbeater during the campaign period, said that the so-called King of Philippine movies has nothing to fear.

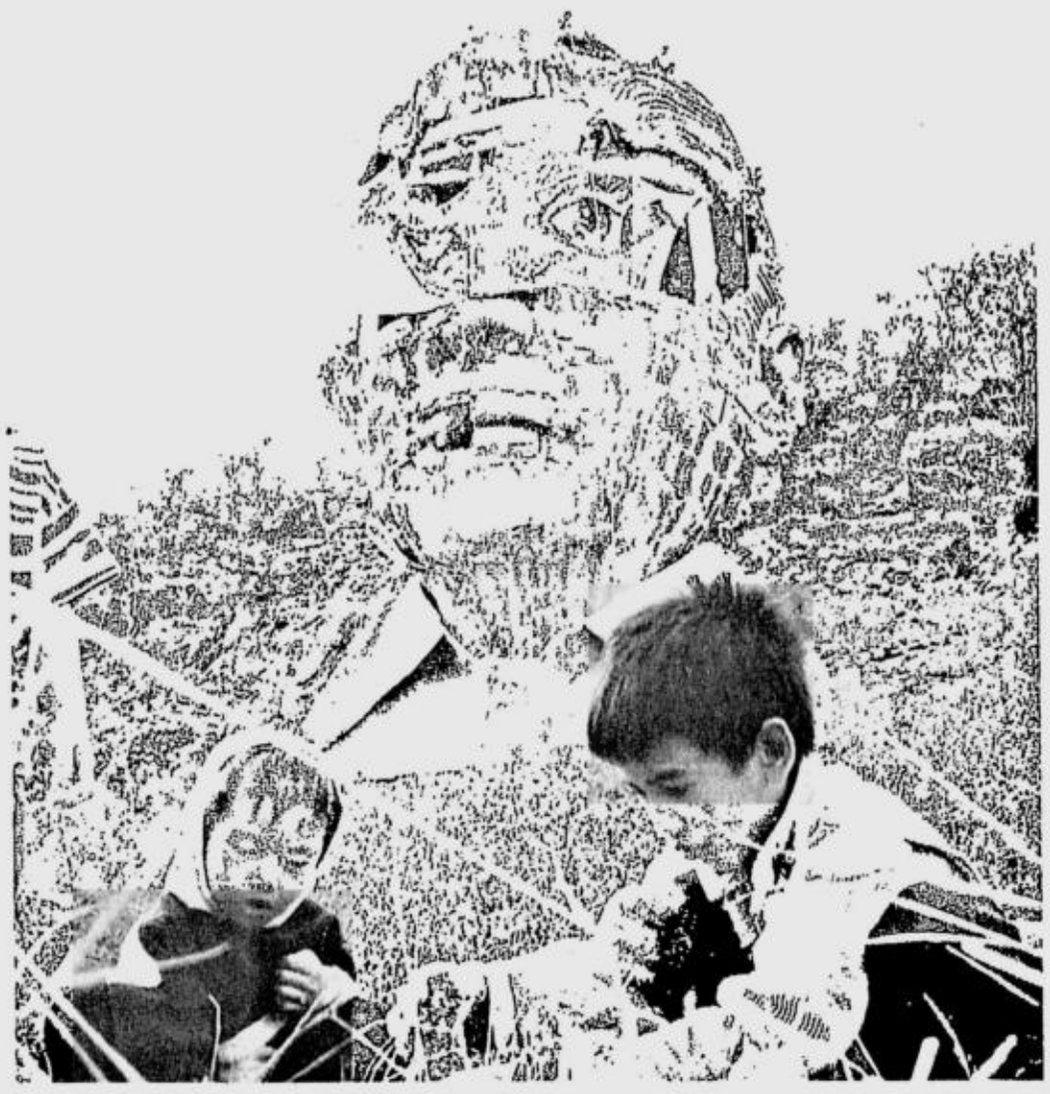
"Big business and religious groups could team up with the political machinery of the administration but they don't have what FPJ has. People love him and they will never desert him," he said.

Sotto maintained that the results of mainstream surveys, particularly those of the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia, have been cooked up to establish a favorable trend for Ms Macapagal.

"This presidential election will prove for the first time that the surveys are wrong," he said. "We must not forget that surveys don't vote, but people do."

In a separate interview, Pimentel asserted that Poe's strength can be gauged by the failure of President Macapagal to post a substantial lead in the surveys.

"The President enjoys the advantage of manpower and resources but she has not pulled away from Poe," Pimentel said. "This means that FPJ has a strong base of support."



ARTISTS' STATEMENT
Children play at the base of the blown-out Marcos bust in Tuba, Benguet, which several artists decorated with campaign streamers and posters recently to protest the 'pretentiousness of egotistic politicians.'
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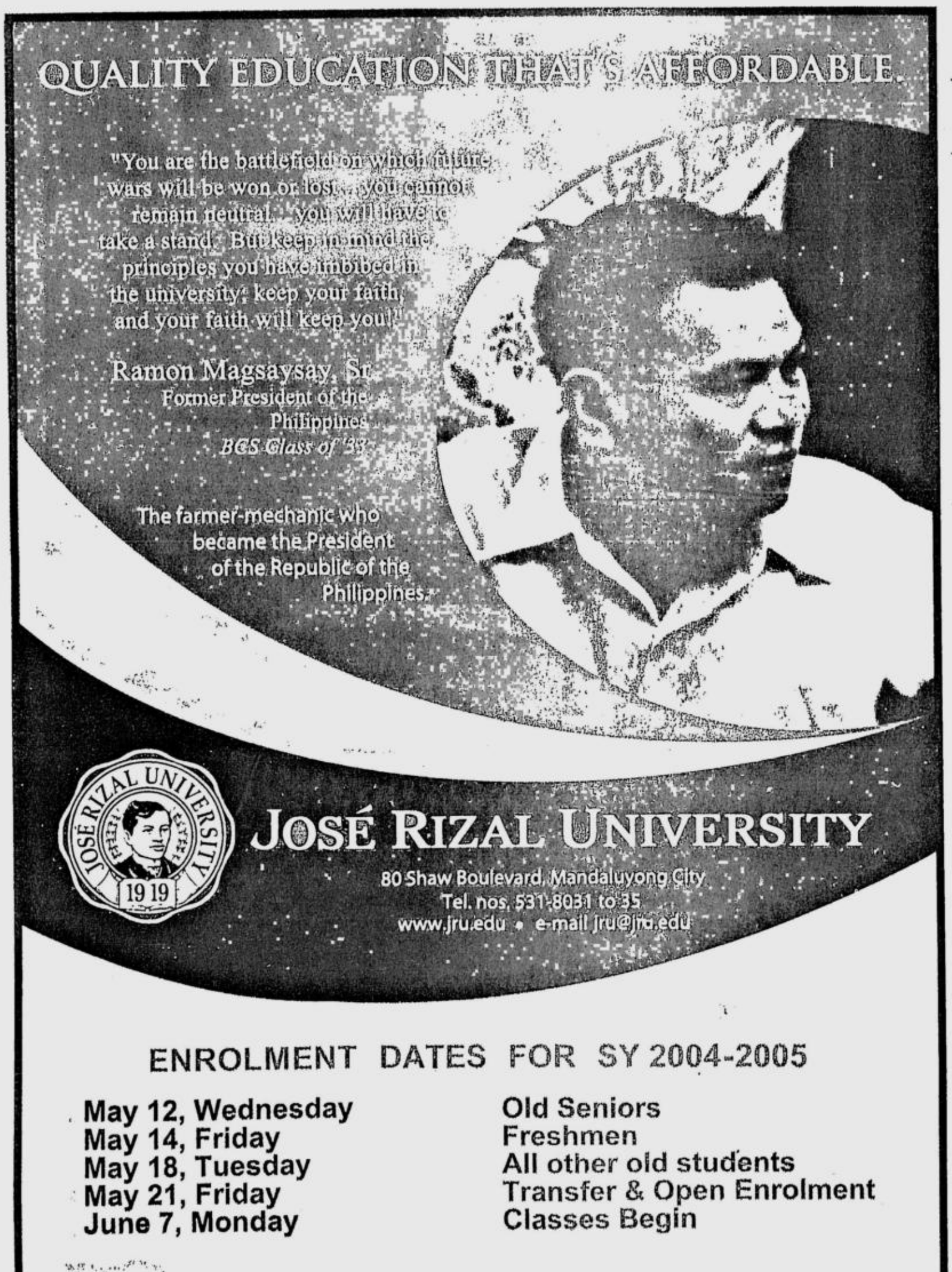
A PUSH for unity, instead of a boast.

With the hours closing in on election day, President Macapagal-Arroyo would rather not gloat on the last day of the campaign period, even though all the major opinion polls have shown she had stretched her lead over closest rival Fernando Poe Jr.

In an ambush interview yesterday at a slum area in Barangay San Miguel across from Malacañang, the President shrugged off queries on how she felt about Monday's elections.

The President said she was more concerned with what would happen after the votes had been counted.

Ms Macapagal, who scrapped the traditional *miting de avance* because of security concerns, said that with the campaign period over, everybody should focus on making a "final push for unity, reconciliation and healing from all camps." *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*



'Nothing wrong with being pals with Marcoses'

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHAT'S WRONG with being a friend of the Marcoses?

This was the reaction of Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. to criticism from civil society and human rights groups that he continued to be a friend of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' immediate family.

Last month, Marcos' widow Imelda and his daughter, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, had raised the arms of Poe and his running mate Sen. Loren Legarda at a KNP proclamation rally in Ilocos Norte.

"Hinuhusgahan ako dahil lumalapit daw ako at itinaas ang kamay ko ng mga Marcos," Poe told broadcast journalist Joe Taruc in an interview over dzRH radio before the KNP miting de avance in Makati City yesterday. *"Sabi ko, sa pulitika, kahit sino lalapitan ko."* (I was judged because the Marcoses raised my hand. In politics I will approach anyone for their help.)

"I also believe that reaching out to everyone is the start of unification. We must be united once and for all," he added.

When asked by Taruc how he would handle the Estrada plunder case in the event he won the presidency, Poe reiterated that he would leave the matter to the courts to decide.

"What I can give Erap is a fair trial," he said.

Poe also took the chance to tell radio listeners his position on several issues, but he did not go into details.

Asked how he would handle the soaring population rate, Poe said he was for "responsible parenthood." He also underscored the need for food security in the country.

On the problem of joblessness, Poe said he was all out for people holding on to "permanent" jobs.

The government's huge budget deficit problem could be addressed by "total transparency" on the part of government, he added.

"Kaya tayo nagkakaroon ng budget deficit, hindi natin alam kung saan talaga napupunta ang kaban ng bayan. Kung there is total transparency, makikita po, malalagay sa ayos yan," he said. (The reason we have a budget deficit is because we do not know how government funds are spent. If there is transparency, we would know where the money goes.)

Candidate cuts off pinkie to make a point

GUINOBATAN, Albay—A vice mayoral candidate of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) here cut off his left pinkie with a knife in front of about 1,000 spectators during a campaign rally at the town plaza on Friday night.

Dr. Jesus Remendado, a former vice mayor who is running for the same position, surprised the crowd when he cut off his finger "to prove" that what he was saying about incumbent Mayor Christopher Flores was true.

Remendado accused the Flores administration of massive graft and corruption, recalling what it did to one of the historical monuments, "The Fountain of Life," in front of the municipal hall here.

Flores' henchmen allegedly destroyed the structure in the course of hunting for treasure.

Remendado also accused the mayor of violating the good governance covenant they had agreed upon earlier.

Remendado, who appeared to be in pain after cutting off his finger, told the audience he did not regret what he had done, win or lose the election.

Sought for comment, Flores, a K-4 candidate, said Remendado was "insane."

He said the accusations against him were false. In fact, he said, his administration was able to pay off the P23-million debt left by past administrations. ***Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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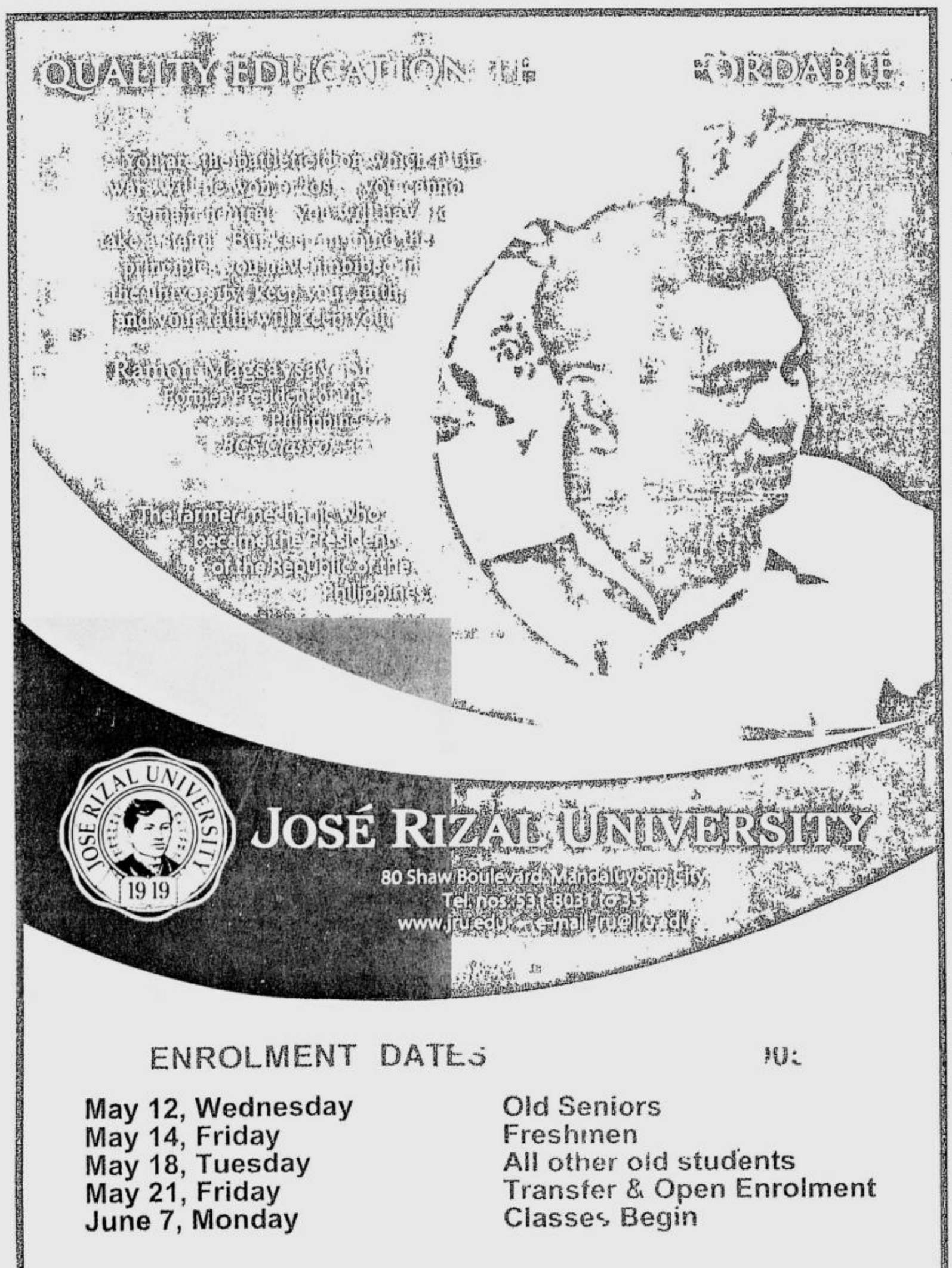

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'It's true I know nothing ...

From page A1

liar in government, there will be a thief who will plunder the public treasury)."

Looking back at the three-month campaign, Poe said the presidential race was not a contest of who was intelligent, better and who had the right to run for the highest position in the country.

"Ang paglilingkod, bayan, ay hindi po paligsahan ng pagyayabang, paglalait at pangungutya (Public service is not a contest of one-upmanship, insults and mockery)," he said.

"Eto po ay pagpili kung sino ang tapat at sino ang mapagkakatiwalaan (This is a choice of who is sincere and who can be trusted)."

Only referring to President Macapagal as *"ang aking katunggali* (my opponent)," he told the crowd how she had dismissed him as someone who did not know anything.

"Totoo po yun. Wala akong alam. Wala akong alam sa pagnanakaw (That is true. I know nothing. I know nothing about stealing)," Poe said. He stressed that it was the President and her camp who knew about stealing.

He also lashed out at Ms Macapagal and her camp who had attacked him for not having a platform of government and for not speaking out in public about his program of government.

"Ang bangang maingay ay walang laman (A noisy pot is an empty pot)," he countered.

Administration 'crazy'

Poe also said the administration was crazy for saying that the opposition would sow chaos in Monday's polls. He said it was the Macapagal administration which was in power and had the resources to do so.

He reiterated that he entered politics for the sake of the people and he would go through even the eye of a needle for them.

And he did enter the eye of a needle because the campaign brought on a deluge of black propaganda against him, he said.

"Pero lahat po niyan ay kaya pang tiisin. Hindi pa naman puno ang salop (But I can endure all that. The cup has not run over)," he said.

Black propaganda

With Election Day just 24 hours away, Poe asked the crowd not to believe the continued black propaganda against him.

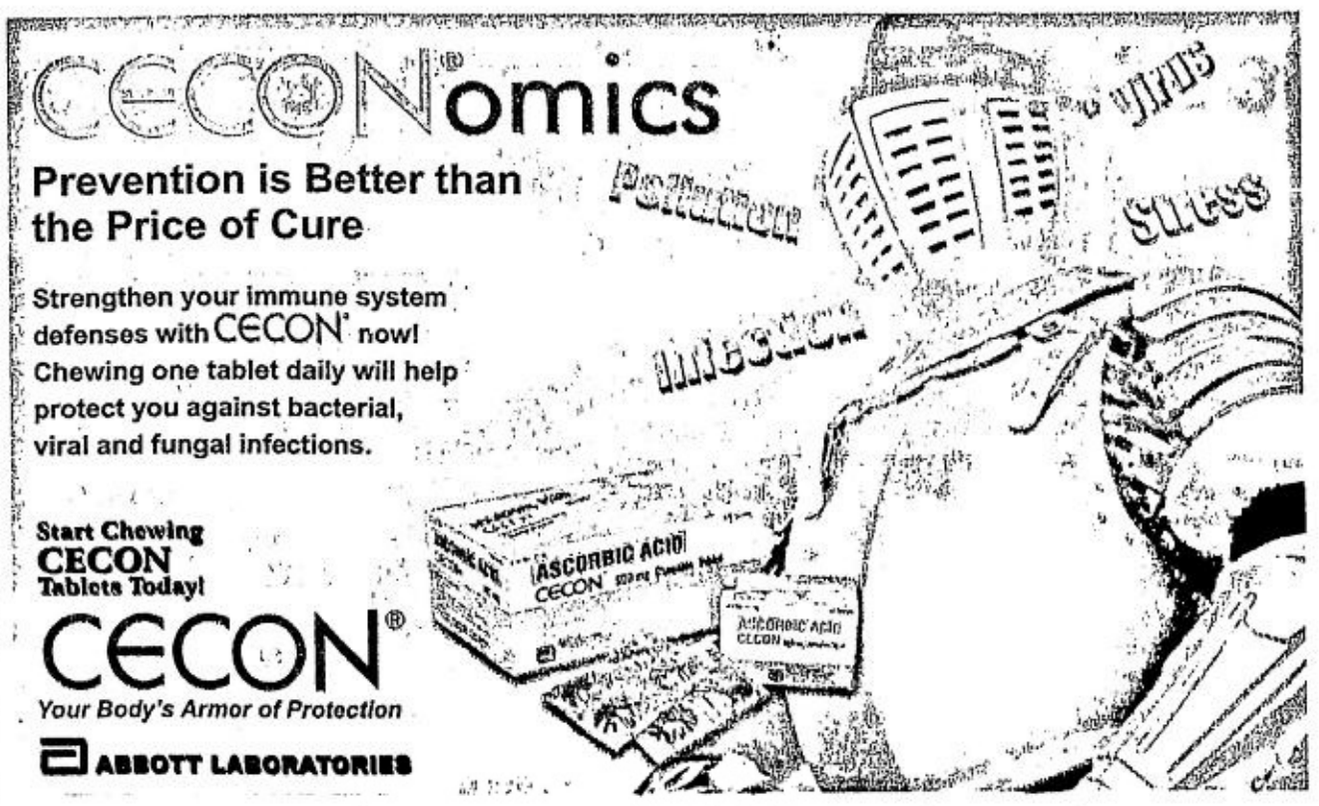
These included reports that ballots with "FPJ" written on them would not be counted. He said they could write "FPJ" if they wanted to.

Poe also urged the crowd not to believe any reports saying he was quitting the presidential race.

"Dahil ako po ay hindi umaatras sa anong labanan (I never back away from a fight)," he added.

Poe promised that in the event he won the presidency, he would serve the people without any limits.

"Wala akong pinagkakautangan ng loob," he said, adding that it was only the people he was beholden to.



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 9, 2004
5th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 14:21-27

After proclaiming the gospel in that town and making many disciples, they returned to Lystra and Iconium and on to Antioch. They were strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain firm in the faith, for they said, "We must go through many trials to enter the Kingdom of God." In each church they appointed elders and, after praying and fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had placed their faith.

Then they traveled through Pisidia, and came to Pamphylia. They preached the Word in Perga and went down to Attalia. From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had first been commended to God's grace for the task they had now completed.

On their arrival they gathered the Church together and told them all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the non-Jews.

2nd Reading: Rev 21:1-5

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had passed away and no longer was there any sea. I saw the new Jerusalem, the holy city coming down from God, out of heaven, adorned as a bride prepared for her husband. A loud voice came from the throne, "Here is the dwelling of God among mortals: He will pitch his tent among them and they will be his people; God will be with them and wipe every tear from their eyes. There shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the world that was has passed away."

The One seated on the throne said, "See, I make all things new." And then he said to me "Write these words because they are sure and true."

Gospel: Jn 13:31-35

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. God will glorify him, and he will glorify him very soon.

"My children, I am with you for only a little while; you will look for me, but, as I already told the Jews, so now I tell you: where I am going you cannot come. Now I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Commentary

"I give you a new commandment: love one another." You can be commanded to obey, to behave this way or that, but how can you be commanded to love? External behavior is subject to external rules, but how can the inner movement of our spirit be commanded? Can you be commanded to remember, or to forget, to think, to feel? How can you be commanded to love?

Meister Eckhart provided a key insight into this puzzling verse in the gospel. The command to love, he said, is not an external command but an inner one; it is an inner drive and urgency of our being. In "commanding" us to love, Jesus is telling us to look, to see our true nature and to follow it. It is like the inner urgency to eat when you are hungry, to drink when you are thirsty. "When I am thirsty, the drink commands me; when I am hungry, the food commands me. And God does the same. He commands me to such sweetness that the whole world cannot equal. And if a person has once tasted this sweetness, then indeed he can no more turn away with his love from goodness and from God, than God can turn away from His Godhead."

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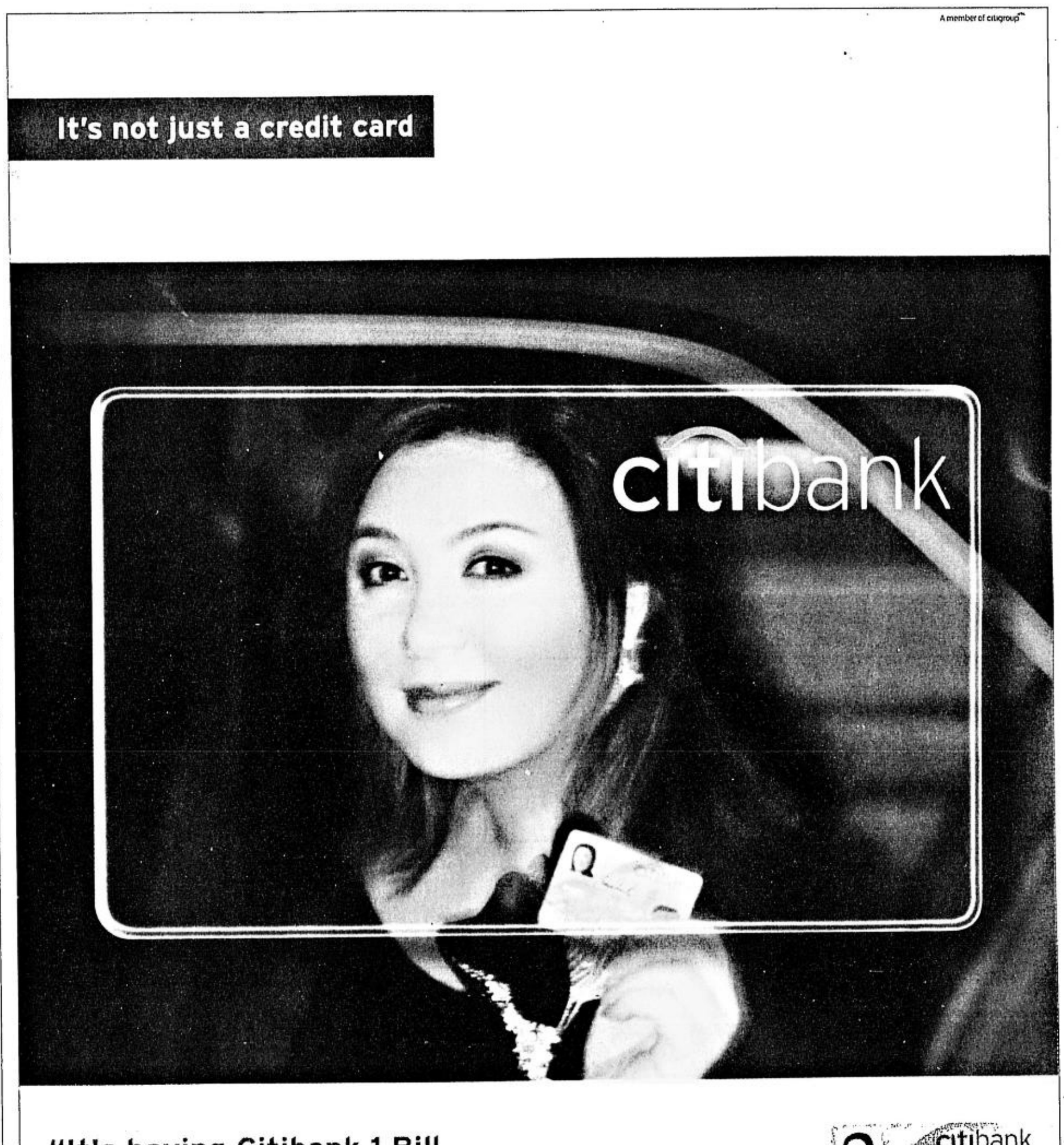

Bets 'imprison' Mangyans to be assured of their votes

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2. One (1) photocopy of Baptismal Certificate
3. Report Card for Grade 1 to 4th year High School
4. Recommendation and Certificate of Good Moral Character from former school for Grade 4 to 4th year High School
5. I.D. picture - Eight (8) 1x1
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By Madonna T. Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PALUAN, Occidental Mindoro—Hundreds of Mangyan voters, including their families, from four barangays here have been confined to two camps called "*pala-palas*," under palm roofs and surrounded by barbed wire, until they cast their votes tomorrow for the mayoral candidates who gathered them here.

The Mangyans were brought here by boat, truck and jeepney.

Some 200 voters among them, with their families, are housed in one camp located behind the Catholic church. They were brought here reportedly by mayoral candidate Jose Tria, who started gathering them as early as May 5.

The other camp, supposedly put up by rival mayoral candidate Abe Francisco, has more than 100 Mangyan voters, also with their families, housed in front of the National Food Authority building here since May 3.

The Mangyan voters were allegedly herded into the *pala-palas* to teach them how to write the names of their respective candidates on the ballots.

Paluan town is about 70 km from Abra de Ilog, which is a two-and-a-half hour boat ride from the Batangas international port.

Villagers here are used to seeing Mangyans being held in camps every election, saying it had become a "tradition."

Safer than in mountains

The Mangyan voters and their families are provided with food and television sets while in the *pala-palas*.

According to Fe San Agustin, municipal budget officer here, "The Mangyans feel safer in the *pala-palas* rather than in the mountains because other politicians go there to get the remaining Mangyans, which is sometimes the cause of trouble."

Social welfare officer Emily Arconada said: "It is the Mangyans' free will to go to the *pala-palas* because they live in the mountains and they are sometimes the cause why politicians fight. At least in the pala-palas, it is already known who they are going to support."

She admitted, however, that the Mangyans' rights are violated with the practice.

Last March 7, in a forum initiated by the Mangyan mission in Occidental Mindoro, the Iraya Mangyans asked local politicians to simply allow them to go to the precincts on their own and not gather them and hold them like prisoners.

Florentino Gayadan, Mangyan mission coordinator, said he was saddened by the system of collecting and holding the Mangyans this way.

The two rival mayoral candidates, Tria and Francisco, reportedly acceded to the Mangyans' request but they went ahead anyway and put them in the *pala-palas*.

Gayadan, who was held in *pala-palas* himself several times in the past, said the candidates begin courting the Mangyans at Christmas time with gifts.

Return for favors granted

In an interview, Francisco said holding the Mangyans was the candidates' way of making sure they would vote for them. He said the Mangyans' votes were in return for favors granted them by the politicians, favors which the Mangyans sometimes abused.

Francisco said he spends about P1,500 per Mangyan family of three members at the camp. He said poor candidates like himself had no choice but to go along with the practice.

"The situation now is more serious, it's becoming worse," he said.

Maximina Arosa of the Comelec here said the practice has been perpetrated by both sides in every election.

"This is not humane. Gift-giving should not carry a condition. This is vote-buying which the Church does not sanction," Mangyan mission church coordinator Fr. Anthony Tria said.

Don't bring too many appliances, tutors told

By Abigail L. Ho

TEACHERS and poll watchers beware. Electrical appliances as simple as electric fans, coffee makers and boom boxes may result in dreaded power outages in the country's polling and canvassing areas.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez issued the warning in the light of past incidents of power failures in public schools used as polling and canvassing centers due to overloaded electrical systems.

Perez said "restraint" in bringing electrical appliances should be exercised by those with official election business, particularly during the critical few days after the elections and on the day of the polls itself.

The Manila Electric Co. issued the same admonition.

Trip-offs

Meralco vice president for corporate communications Elpi Cuna asked teachers and other personnel in voting and canvassing areas not to plug in too many appliances as this could cause the electrical systems to trip.

"We would like to advise the teachers and other personnel to exercise restraint in bringing in appliances that may overload the schools' electric systems," Cuna said.

Perez urged school superintendents to inspect their schools' circuit boxes to ensure that no trip-offs would occur around the elections.

As a precautionary measure, he said, spare fuses should be kept on hand to assure continuous power after a trip-off.

He said teachers and poll watchers should also bring their own lamps and flashlights in the event of a power outage.

The National Power Corp. assured the public there would be ample power supply on May 10 and on the days surrounding the polls.

Under Napocor's contingency plan, no maintenance work on power generation facilities would be allowed on May 7-14. Also, all Napocor plants and independent power producers will be placed on "minimum stable load operation" so that power reserves could be doubled.

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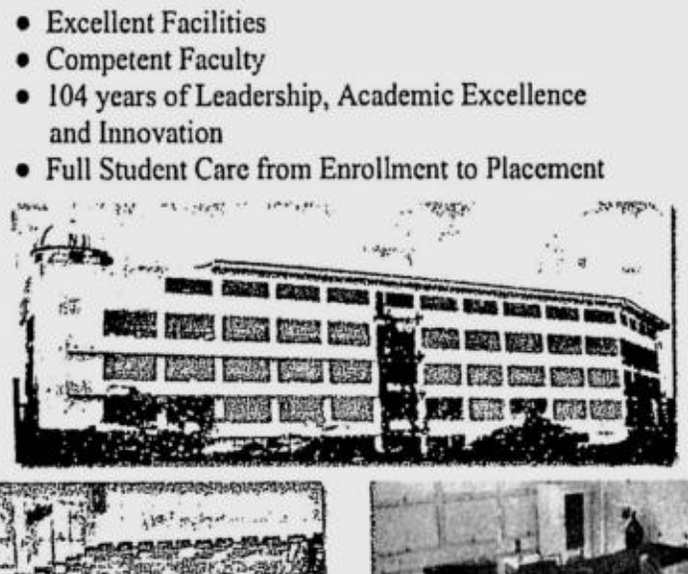
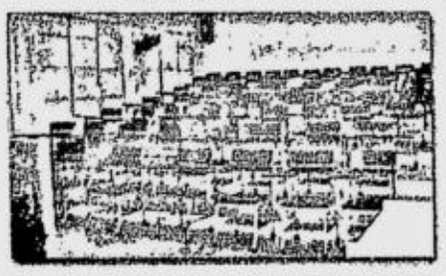

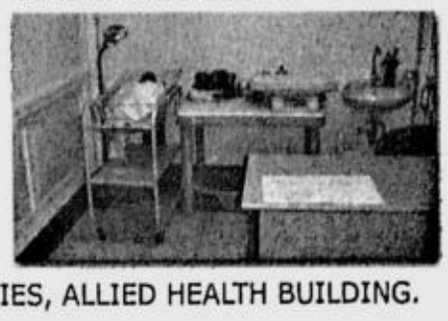
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Probe sought of Erap ads

By Armand Nocum

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada's police custodians are in more hot water for purportedly allowing the jailed former leader to do campaign spiels for opposition candidates while in detention.

In an interview, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said the justice department plans to ask Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane and Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento, director of the Police Security and Detection Office, to explain how Estrada was able to make the video shoot and radio recording for the campaign ads.

Although admitting that Estrada had the right to plug the candidacy of anyone he wished, Villa-Ignacio said the manner by which it was done should have been in accordance with the custodial rules set by the Sandiganbayan.

The First Division of the Sandiganbayan, which is trying the plunder and graft cases against Estrada, had barred media interviews of the ousted leader. Any interviews would have to be cleared by the court.

Last month, Estrada managed to tape a television ad endorsing his son, Jinggoy, who is running for the Senate under the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

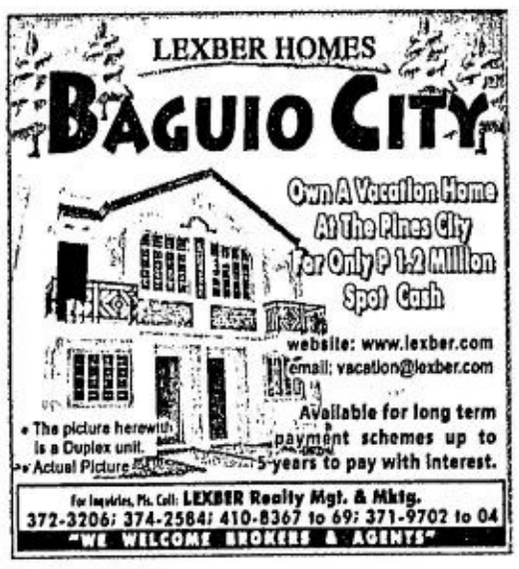
A radio ad aired recently had Estrada campaigning for KNP standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr.

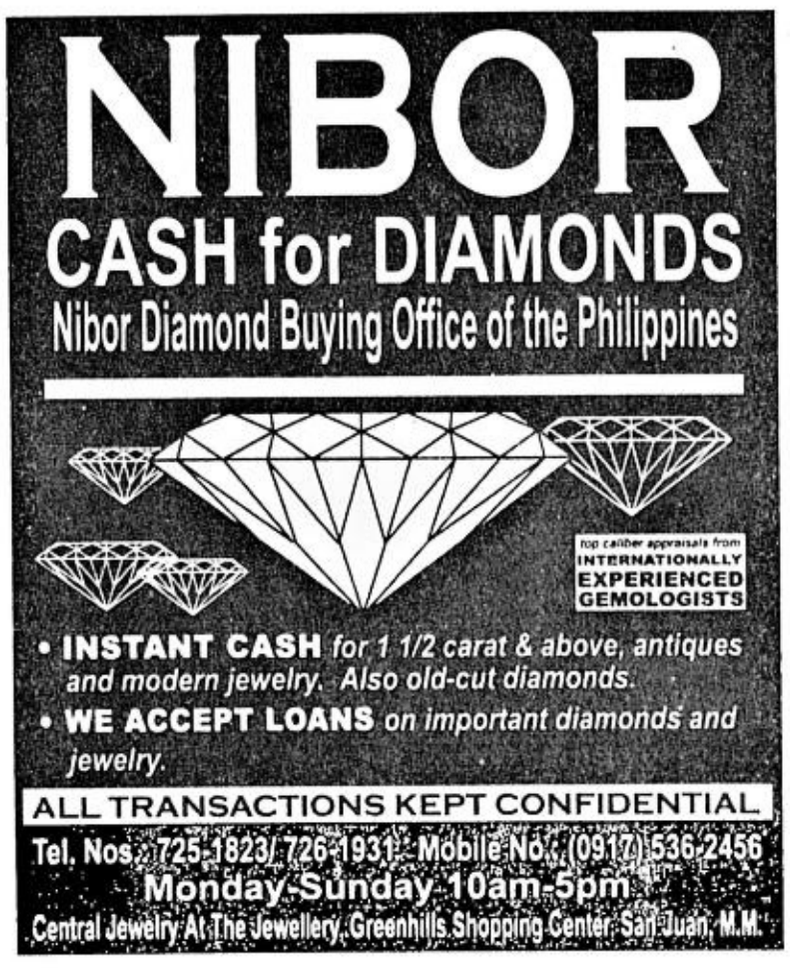
Villa-Ignacio said the television ad shot in front of Estrada's detention bungalow at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, looked like there was a director overseeing its making, while the radio spot appeared to have been done in a radio booth.

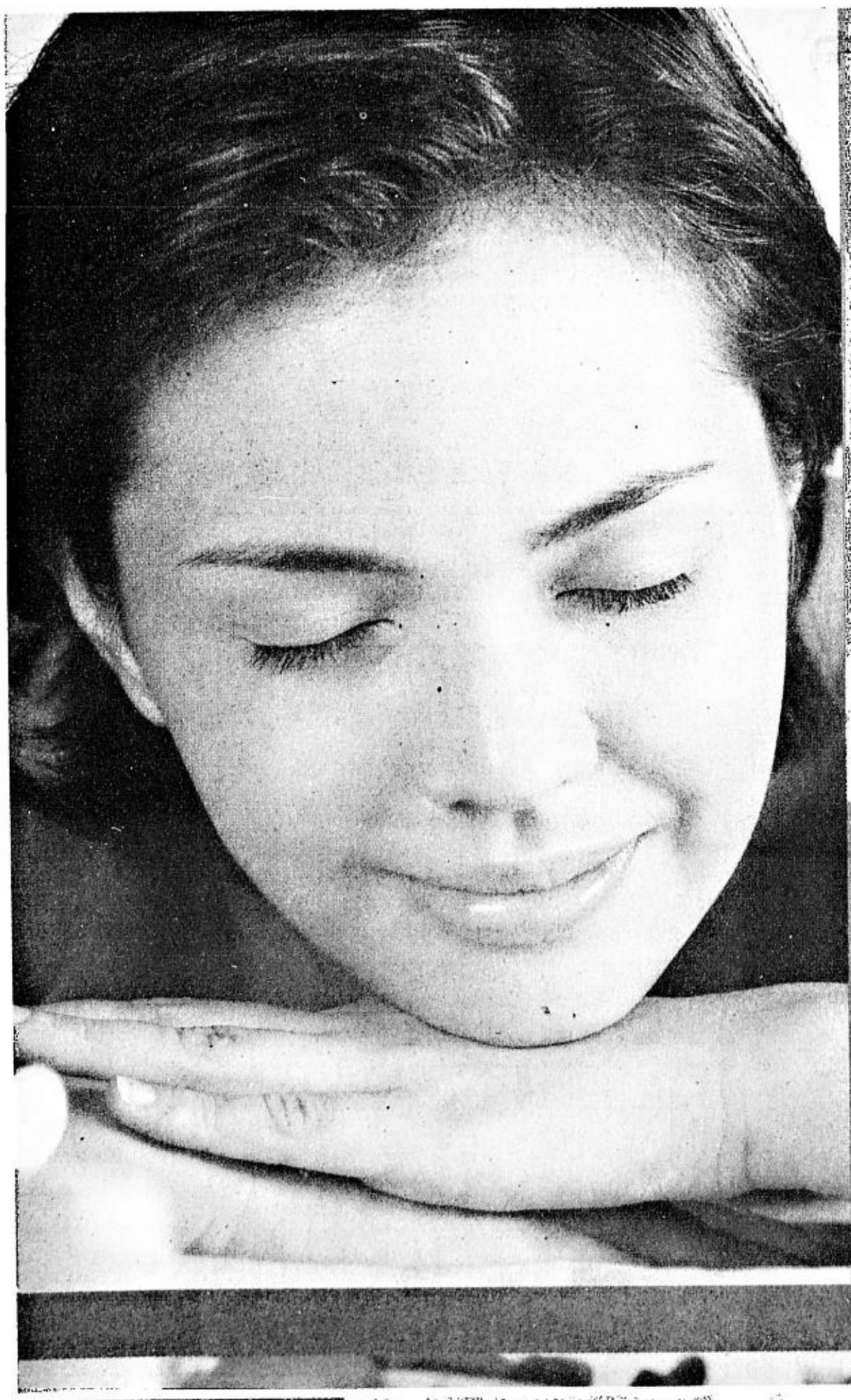
"Was he taken out of Camp Capinpin and brought to a studio?" Villa-Ignacio asked.

He also wondered if Estrada had been given clearance to do the ads.

If there was basis to charge Sacramento and his men with violating custodial rules, Villa-Ignacio said he would move to include the raps in the contempt case filed against Ebdane and Sacramento for allegedly allowing Estrada to leave his detention quarters for his vacation estate across from the military camp and to visit his mother in San Juan without a court order.







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Rumsfeld takes responsibility for abuses, but will not resign

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The usually combative Rumsfeld grimly acknowledged his failure to inform President George W. Bush and Congress about the mistreatment but shrugged off calls to quit.

He said photos of US soldiers posing with bound and naked Iraqi prisoners, some in simulated sex acts, had been a "catastrophe" for the United States.

And he warned that hundreds more photos and at least two videos, even more "blatantly sadistic, cruel and inhuman" than those already published, were in circulation and waiting to fan worldwide outrage.

"Congress and the American people and the rest of the world need to know this," he said.

Extraordinary public apologies from Bush and other US officials since CBS television first aired the images April 28 have not quelled anger and indignation.

"I feel terrible about what happened to those Iraqi detainees," said the 71-year-old defense secretary.

The United States had a duty to give proper treatment to prisoners, he said, but "we didn't, and that was wrong.

"So to those Iraqis who were mistreated by members of the US armed forces, I offer my deepest apology. It was inconsistent with the values of our nation.

"It happened on my watch, and I take full responsibility."

Seven US troops have so far been charged.

Bush publicly scolded Rumsfeld this week for not having told him sooner about images the Pentagon knew about since January.

On the ground in Iraq, firebrand Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's uprising was dealt a pair of blows as the Shiite establishment in the holy city of Najaf, 130 km south of Baghdad, told his followers to return to their homes, while US troops killed 20 of his militiamen.

RUMSFELD rubs his eye during Senate hearing. AFP

Respected cleric Sheikh Sadreddin Kubbanji issued an unequivocal denunciation of Sadr's renegade Mehdi Army in a sign that US political and military pressure could be bearing fruit and time may be running out on Sadr's month-long insurgency.

"Go back to your home where you came from and fight the occupation and the Baathists there," Kubbanji told thousands of worshippers at weekly Friday prayers at the Imam Ali Mausoleum, one of the most revered shrines in Shia Islam.

Twelve Sadr followers died in running battles around Najaf and a US aircraft dropped a 500-pound bomb on a Sadr mortar position outside the city, a coalition military spokesperson said.

Another eight militiamen died and 14 were wounded fighting US troops in nearby the shrine city of Karbala, a doctor said there.

Yet Sadr, who fanned an uprising against US troops after US occupational forces declared him an outlaw in March, defied an arrest warrant by circumventing US checkpoints on foot with armed followers to deliver a fire-and-brimstone sermon in Kufa.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross, monitor of the Geneva Conventions on treatment of prisoners of war, said the abuse it found in Iraq's US-run prisons was systematic and amounted to torture.

The ICRC said it had first raised concerns with the United States more than a year ago. *AFP*

Teen suspected of creating 'Sasser' nabbed

BERLIN—German authorities have arrested an 18-year-old man suspected of creating the "Sasser" computer virus, which infected thousands of computers worldwide, an official said Saturday.

The suspect, a high school student, was arrested Friday and lives near the town of Rotenburg an der Wuemme, said Frank Federau, a spokesperson for the state criminal office in Hanover.

He did not elaborate or release the man's identity, and said he did not immediately have details of how the suspect was tracked down.

The worm raced around the world over the past week, exploiting a flaw in Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system.

Unlike most outbreaks, Sasser does not require users to activate it by clicking on an e-mail attachment. Sasser is known as a network worm because it can automatically scan the Internet for computers with the security flaw and send a copy of itself there. *AP*

Suicide bombing of Karachi mosque kills 14, injures 90

KARACHI—Angry youths torched two minibuses in the troubled Pakistani port city of Karachi Saturday as minority Shiite Muslims mourned the killing of 14 people in a suicide bomb attack on a mosque, police said.

Firefighters said more than a dozen vehicles were also gutted overnight as violence erupted in Shiite-dominated areas of Karachi soon after Friday's bombing.

On Saturday protesters in the central Ancholi district hurled rocks at public and private vehicles, police officer Imran Khan said. "They seized a minibus and set it on fire," he said.

Another group torched a vehicle in the city's Gulshan Iqbal neighborhood, police said.

Police and hospital officials said 14 people were killed in Friday's blast, including the suspected suicide bomber, and more than 90 others were injured.

Shiite community

The Shiite community declared three days of mourning and shops and markets were closed in some parts of the city Saturday.

Community leader Syed Zafar Hasan Naqvi said the violence "was spontaneous despite our advice to youths to observe restraint."

He said: "If the authorities do not bring the culprits to book, we could not hold them from resorting to agitation."

Police said up to three kilograms of explosives were used in the bomb which was detonated among rows of worshippers in the Shiite Haideri Mosque.

"There was no crater on the floor of the mosque which makes us believe that the attacker had explosive strapped on his upper body," Syed Kamal Shah, police inspector general of surrounding Sindh province, said.

President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali strongly condemned the attack and stressed the government's resolve to eradicate terrorism and sectarian violence.

No arrests

No group has claimed responsibility and no arrests have been made so far.

The government has announced a reward about $44,000 for information about the perpetrators of the blast.

Security has been beefed up in the city which has a history of ethnic political and sectarian violence.

"We have increased patrolling in the sensitive areas of the city and deployed extra force around Shiite and Sunni mosques and churches," Shah said.

The Sunni-dominated Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, a powerful alliance of religious parties, said the attack was aimed at fomenting sectarian violence.

"Terrorists want to create sectarian confrontation and political instability in the country," the alliance's senior leader Liaquat Baloch said.

Shiites form about 20 percent of the country's Sunni-dominated 150 million population.

Sectarian violence involving militants from the two communities have claimed more than 4,000 people over the past several years across the country.

Some 48 people were killed in an attack on a Shiite religious procession in the southwestern city of Quetta in March.

A bloody attack on a Shiite mosque in Quetta also left 48 people dead and sparked violent protests in July. *AFP*

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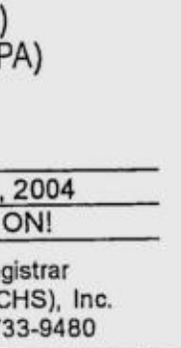

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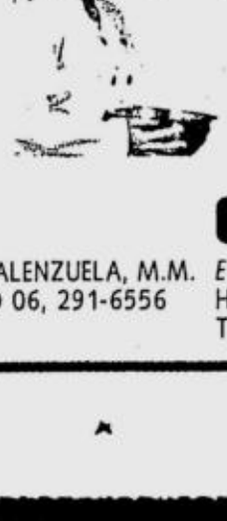

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"I feel terrible about what happened to those Iraqi detainees," said the 71-year-old defense secretary.

The United States had a duty to give proper treatment to prisoners, he said, but "we didn't, and that was wrong.

"So to those Iraqis who were mistreated by members of the US armed forces, I offer my deepest apology. It was inconsistent with the values of our nation.

"It happened on my watch, and I take full responsibility."

Seven US troops have so far been charged.

Bush publicly scolded Rumsfeld this week for not having told him sooner about images the Pentagon knew about since January.

On the ground in Iraq, firebrand Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's uprising was dealt a pair of blows as the Shiite establishment in the holy city of Najaf, 130 km south of Baghdad, told his followers to return to their homes, while US troops killed 20 of his militiamen.

RUMSFELD rubs his eye during Senate hearing.

Respected cleric Sheikh Sadreddin Kubbanji issued an unequivocal denunciation of Sadr's renegade Mehdi Army in a sign that US political and military pressure could be bearing fruit and time may be running out on Sadr's month-long insurgency.

"Go back to your home where you came from and fight the occupation and the Baathists there," Kubbanji told thousands of worshippers at weekly Friday prayers at the Imam Ali Mausoleum, one of the most revered shrines in Shia Islam.

Twelve Sadr followers died in running battles around Najaf and a US aircraft dropped a 500-pound bomb on a Sadr mortar position outside the city, a coalition military spokesperson said.

Another eight militiamen died and 14 were wounded fighting US troops in nearby the shrine city of Karbala, a doctor said there.

Yet Sadr, who fanned an uprising against US troops after US occupational forces declared him an outlaw in March, defied an arrest warrant by circumventing US checkpoints on foot with armed followers to deliver a fire-and-brimstone sermon in Kufa.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross, monitor of the Geneva Conventions on treatment of prisoners of war, said the abuse it found in Iraq's US-run prisons was systematic and amounted to torture.

The ICRC said it had first raised concerns with the United States more than a year ago. *AFP*

Teen suspected of creating 'Sasser' nabbed

BERLIN—German authorities have arrested an 18-year-old man suspected of creating the "Sasser" computer virus, which infected thousands of computers worldwide, an official said Saturday.

The suspect, a high school student, was arrested Friday and lives near the town of Rotenburg an der Wuemme, said Frank Federau, a spokesperson for the state criminal office in Hanover.

He did not elaborate or release the man's identity, and said he did not immediately have details of how the suspect was tracked down.

The worm raced around the world over the past week, exploiting a flaw in Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system.

Unlike most outbreaks, Sasser does not require users to activate it by clicking on an e-mail attachment. Sasser is known as a network worm because it can automatically scan the Internet for computers with the security flaw and send a copy of itself there. *AP*

Suicide bombing of Karachi mosque kills 14, injures 90

KARACHI—Angry youths torched two minibuses in the troubled Pakistani port city of Karachi Saturday as minority Shiite Muslims mourned the killing of 14 people in a suicide bomb attack on a mosque, police said.

Firefighters said more than a dozen vehicles were also gutted overnight as violence erupted in Shiite-dominated areas of Karachi soon after Friday's bombing.

On Saturday protesters in the central Ancholi district hurled rocks at public and private vehicles, police officer Imran Khan said. "They seized a minibus and set it on fire," he said.

Another group torched a vehicle in the city's Gulshan Iqbal neighborhood, police said.

Police and hospital officials said 14 people were killed in Friday's blast, including the suspected suicide bomber, and more than 90 others were injured.

Shiite community

The Shiite community declared three days of mourning and shops and markets were closed in some parts of the city Saturday.

Community leader Syed Zafar Hasan Naqvi said the violence "was spontaneous despite our advice to youths to observe restraint."

He said: "If the authorities do not bring the culprits to book, we could not hold them from resorting to agitation."

Police said up to three kilograms of explosives were used in the bomb which was detonated among rows of worshippers in the Shie Haideri Mosque.

"There w[illegible] no [illegible] on the floor of the mos[illegible] believe that the attac[illegible] had explosiv[illegible] rapped on his upper body," Syed Kamal Shah, police inspector general of surrounding Sindh province, said.

President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali strongly condemned the attack and stressed the government's resolve to eradicate terrorism and sectarian violence.

No arrests

No group has claimed responsibility and no arrests have been made so far.

The government has announced a reward about $44,000 for information about the perpetrators of the blast.

Security has been beefed up in the city which has a history of ethnic political and sectarian violence.

"We have increased patrolling in the sensitive areas of the city and deployed extra force around Shiite and Sunni mosques and churches," Shah said.

The Sunni-dominated Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, a powerful alliance of religious parties, said the attack was aimed at fomenting sectarian violence.

"Terrorists want to create sectarian confrontation and political instability in the country," the alliance's senior leader Liaquat Baloch said.

Shiites form about 20 percent of the country's Sunni-dominated 150 million population.

Sectarian violence involving militants from the two communities have claimed more than 4,000 people over the past several years across the country.

Some 48 people were killed in an attack on a Shiite religious procession in the southwestern city of Quetta in March.

A bloody attack on a Shiite mosque in Quetta also left 48 people dead and sparked violent protests in July *AFP*

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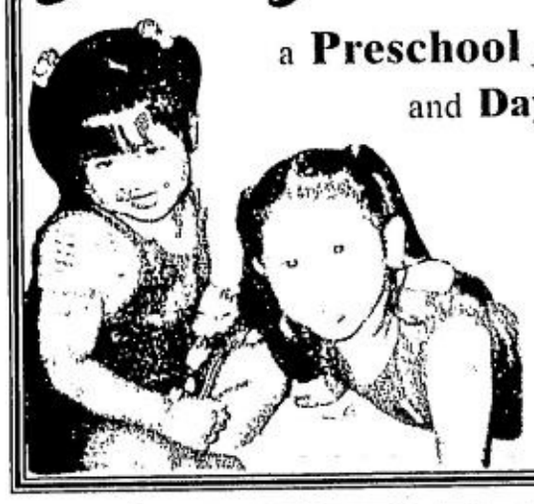

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Bets clog city traffic on last campaign day

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In Bulacan, local candidates started doing the rounds of villages as early as 5 a.m. to campaign leading residents to complain. *Tonette Orejas with a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

JI hand starting to be visible in bank accounts

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She said she did not know how much the account contained now but that the amount was large.

"I cannot tell how much, but what I know is that regularly there are cash being deposited into his (Abdullah) account," she said.

She described Abdullah, who is known here as a money changer, as a kind client.

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They refused to provide any detail except to say it is not dormant.

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His disappearance was initially reported as yet another abduction.

Later, authorities admitted that Abdullah is in their custody and was being investigated for possible links with the JI and other terror groups.

His alleged link to the JI was discovered after the arrest last year of Indonesian Taufik Refke, a senior JI leader acting as bagman for the terror group in Mindanao.

Authorities said Abdullah received some $25,000 from the JI in July 2003.

The money was allegedly sent to Abdullah by Zulkifli, another ranking JI member based abroad.

Zulkifli was later arrested in Malaysia.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Osama bin Laden's brother-in-law and the primary suspect of the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States, was the source of the funds. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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10 more killed as polls heat up in Luzon, Visayas

TEN MORE persons were killed in seven election-related incidents this week, that also left four persons wounded. Most of the fatalities were supporters or campaigners of local candidates.

Three supporters of rival mayoral candidates in Cervantes, Ilocos Sur, were killed while two others were wounded after a gunfight in Barangay Malaya there yesterday.

In Nueva Ecija, a woman was hurt after a bomb exploded in front of the house of a mayoral candidate in Sta. Rosa town about 4 a.m. Saturday.

In Abra, two men with Armalite rifles shot and killed village guard Genaro Villastiqui as he led his carabao into the Abra River in Barangay Cabaroan, Bangued.

Joel Gines, Commission on Elections supervisor in Ilocos Sur, identified the victims in the Cervantes shoot-out as Efren Bal-isen and Marcon Amilao, supporters of Vice Mayor Rufino Amilao.

Amilao is running for mayor against Mayor Benjamin Maggay and Reynaldo Pimentel.

Gines said the third victim was a supporter of Maggay.

In Apayao, former barangay captain Eduardo Bunao of Barangay Poblacion East in Flora town was gunned down Saturday morning.

In Sorsogon, town councilor Domingo Jagosojos, president of the Association of Barangay Captains in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Casiguran, was killed on Wednesday night. Jagosojos, a close ally of Casiguran mayor Edwin "Boboy" Hamor, suffered 17 bullet wounds.

In Leyte, four armed men shot dead two supporters of mayoral candidate Leonardo Omega of Calubian town.

Killed were Basano Saba, 49, and Edgardo Medellin, 43, by four motorcycle-riding armed men in Barangay Obispo on Friday.

Omega said his five supporters were returning to town from Barangay Villalon, an interior village 27 km from the town proper, when the four armed men, riding in two motorcycles, appeared and started firing at Saba and Medellin, who were on another motorcycle.

Police has identified Calubian as one of Leyte's 19 "areas of concern."

In Antique, council candidate Rodrigo Arnaiz was held for the shooting death of Nelson Manado, a village watchman.

In Bohol, village councilor Marilou Lim, who was campaigning for her cousin Henriqueta Gan's mayoral bid, was shot dead while her husband was wounded seriously when two gunmen fired at them after a benefit dance Thursday dawn in Valencia, Tagbilaran City. *Frank Cimatu, Cristina Arzadon, Artha Kira Paredes and Gerriahzon Sebastian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Chito A. Fuentes, Joey A. Gabieta and Nestor P. Burgos Jr. PDI Visayas Bureau*

Misamis officials assail trumped up raps vs mayor

OZAMIZ CITY—The political leaders of Misamis Occidental have assailed the "flagrant abuse and disregard of the criminal justice system" to persecute the town mayor of Sapang Dalaga to prevent him from campaigning and from assuming office.

Led by Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos and Rep. Ernie Clarete, the officials said warrants have been issued for the arrest of Sapang Dalaga Mayor Manuel Animas and other known enemies of the notorious Yap family on trumped up and non-bailable charges of kidnapping for ransom.

They said the charges were filed in Biñan, Laguna by supporters of the Yap family who gave the prosecutors fictitious addresses of the respondents.

The mayor and other respondents were not informed of the charges, not given due process in the preliminary investigation and were promptly charged in court.

Arrest warrants were issued to Animas and eight other respondents perceived to be enemies of the Yaps and were served on April 28, 12 days before the elections, by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation, where officials have been accused of collusion with the Yaps.

The Yap brothers, Rey and Roy, were detained at the NBI headquarters for years and are now serving life sentences at the National Bilibid Prisons for the 1992 killing of a political rival, Victorio Cebedo.

Two brothers of Cebedo were later killed in separate ambushes in Metro Manila. Perfecto Cebedo was killed in 2002 in Muntinlupa and Prudencio Cebedo was wounded but survived an earlier ambush. The Cebedo family had blamed all three attacks on the Yaps.

The provincial officials appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and to judicial authorities to step into such "political machinations" of the Yap family.

The others who signed the appeal were provincial board members Jimmy Regalado, Rosario Balais and Franklin Omandam and mayors Nancy Bandala of Oroquieta City, Melquiades Azcuna Jr. of Lopez Jaena, Miriam Paylaga of Panaon, Cesaria Lood of Sinacaban, Leonardo Regalado II of Aloran, Jennifer Tan of Tangub City, Inocencio Pagalaran Jr. of Calamba, Edilma Bulawin of Plaridel, Nilo Obut of Tudela and J. Antonio Lim Sr. of Jimenez.

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10 more killed as polls heat up in Luzon, Visayas

TEN MORE persons were killed in seven election-related incidents this week, that also left four persons wounded. Most of the fatalities were supporters or campaigners of local candidates.

Three supporters of rival mayoral candidates in Cervantes, Ilocos Sur, were killed while two others were wounded after a gunfight in Barangay Malaya there yesterday.

In Nueva Ecija, a woman was hurt after a bomb exploded in front of the house of a mayoral candidate in Sta. Rosa town about 4 a.m. Saturday.

In Abra, two men with Armalite rifles shot and killed village guard Genaro Villastiqui as he led his carabao into the Abra River in Barangay Cabaroan, Bangued.

Joel Gines, Commission on Elections supervisor in Ilocos Sur, identified the victims in the Cervantes shoot-out as Efren Bal-isen and Marcon Amilao, supporters of Vice Mayor Rufino Amilao.

Amilao is running for mayor against Mayor Benjamin Maggay and Reynaldo Pimentel.

Gines said the third victim was a supporter of Maggay.

In Apayao, former barangay captain Eduardo Bunao of Barangay Poblacion East in Flora town was gunned down Saturday morning.

In Sorsogon, town councilor Domingo Jagosojos, president of the Association of Barangay Captains in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Casiguran, was killed on Wednesday night. Jagosojos, a close ally of Casiguran mayor Edwin "Boboy" Hamor, suffered 17 bullet wounds.

In Leyte, four armed men shot dead two supporters of mayoral candidate Leonardo Omega of Calubian town.

Killed were Basano Saba, 49, and Edgardo Medellin, 43, by four motorcycle-riding armed men in Barangay Obispo on Friday.

Omega said his five supporters were returning to town from Barangay Villalon, an interior village 27 km from the town proper, when the four armed men, riding in two motorcycles, appeared and started firing at Saba and Medellin, who were on another motorcycle.

Police has identified Calubian as one of Leyte's 19 "areas of concern."

In Antique, council candidate Rodrigo Arnaiz was held for the shooting death of Nelson Manado, a village watchman.

In Bohol, village councilor Marilou Lim, who was campaigning for her cousin Henriqueta Gan's mayoral bid, was shot dead while her husband was wounded seriously when two gunmen fired at them after a benefit dance Thursday dawn in Valencia, Tagbilaran City. *Frank Cimatu, Cristina Arzadon, Artha Kira Paredes and Gerriahzon Sebastian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Chito A. Fuentes, Joey A. Gabieta and Nestor P. Burgos Jr. PDI Visayas Bureau*

Misamis officials assail trumped up raps vs mayor

OZAMIZ CITY—The political leaders of Misamis Occidental have assailed the "flagrant abuse and disregard of the criminal justice system" to persecute the town mayor of Sapang Dalaga to prevent him from campaigning and from assuming office.

Led by Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos and Rep. Ernie Clarete, the officials said warrants have been issued for the arrest of Sapang Dalaga Mayor Manuel Animas and other known enemies of the notorious Yap family on trumped up and non-bailable charges of kidnapping for ransom.

They said the charges were filed in Biñan, Laguna by supporters of the Yap family who gave the prosecutors fictitious addresses of the respondents.

The mayor and other respondents were not informed of the charges, not given due process in the preliminary investigation and were promptly charged in court.

Arrest warrants were issued to Animas and eight other respondents perceived to be enemies of the Yaps and were served on April 28, 12 days before the elections, by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation, where officials have been accused of collusion with the Yaps.

The Yap brothers, Rey and Roy, were detained at the NBI headquarters for years and are now serving life sentences at the National Bilibid Prisons for the 1992 killing of a political rival, Victorio Cebedo.

Two brothers of Cebedo were later killed in separate ambushes in Metro Manila. Perfecto Cebedo was killed in 2002 in Muntinlupa and Prudencio Cebedo was wounded but survived an earlier ambush. The Cebedo family had blamed all three attacks on the Yaps.

The provincial officials appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and to judicial authorities to step into such "political machinations" of the Yap family.

The others who signed the appeal were provincial board members Jimmy Regalado, Rosario Balais and Franklin Omandam and mayors Nancy Bandala of Oroquieta City, Melquiades Azcuna Jr. of Lopez Jaena, Miriam Paylaga of Panaon, Cesaria Lood of Sinacaban, Leonardo Regalado II of Aloran, Jennifer Tan of Tangub City, Inocencio Pagalaran Jr. of Calamba, Edilma Bulawin of Plaridel, Nilo Obut of Tudela and J. Antonio Lim Sr. of Jimenez.

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Marinduque police force says NPAs biggest threat to polls

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"They could disrupt election proceedings at the polling place, or they could harass policemen escorting ballot boxes," he said.

But he quickly added: "We're ready for them. We have already put up mobile checkpoints at strategic spots along the provincial highway."

Defiesta said that from the island-province's 218 barangays, at least 56 are classified as "threatened" by the NPA rebels.

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SAN PABLO CITY—Reelectionist Sen. Robert Jaworski said the government should provide an atmosphere of hope throughout the country, most particularly in depressed areas, if "we are to ensure an end to armed conflicts."

"If people in depressed areas know that there are hospitals in the vicinity to attend to the sick, education for their kids, opportunities for livelihood for all, especially for the underprivileged and similar basic services, then why would people wage war against the government?" Jaworski asked in a press conference here in a recent sortie in Laguna.

The senator emphasized that these developments should be given priorities otherwise, there will be no end to the armed rebellion waged by mostly the poor.

Jaworski said the government should always give room for peace negotiations with people who challenge the established government.

"But the state leadership must also be firm and strong not to give in to all the demand of the rebels but should take time to listen to these," he said.

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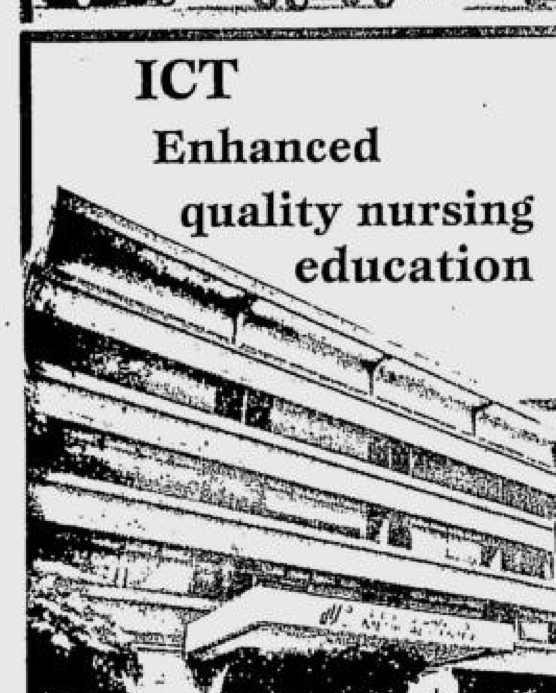

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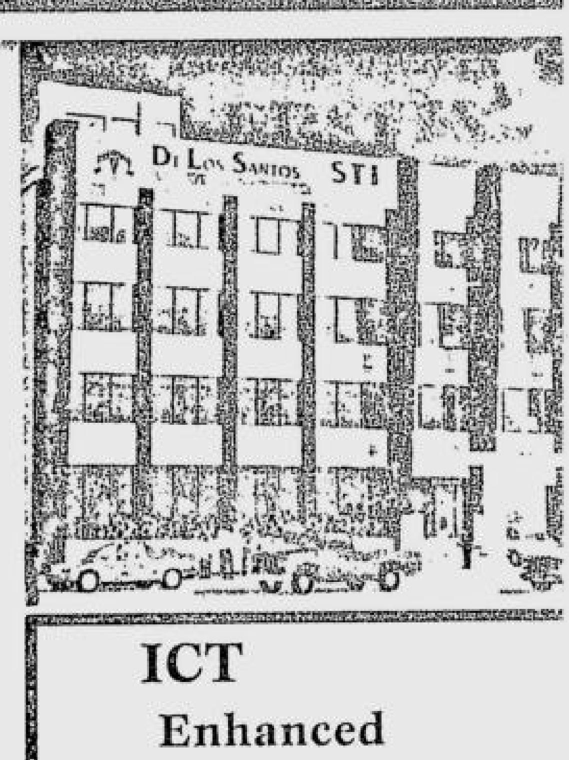

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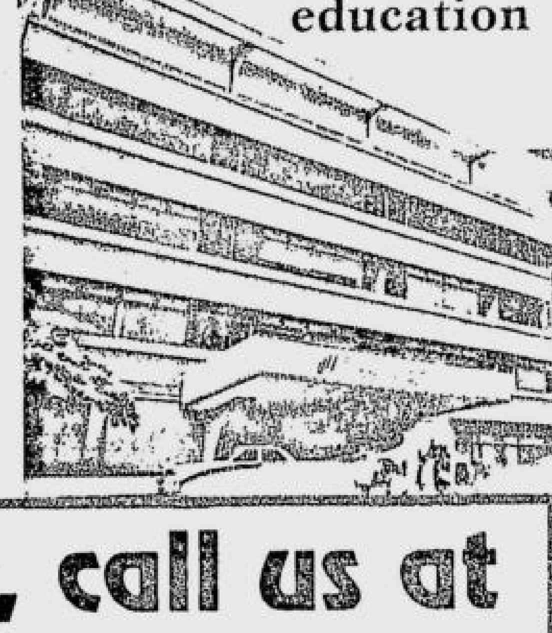

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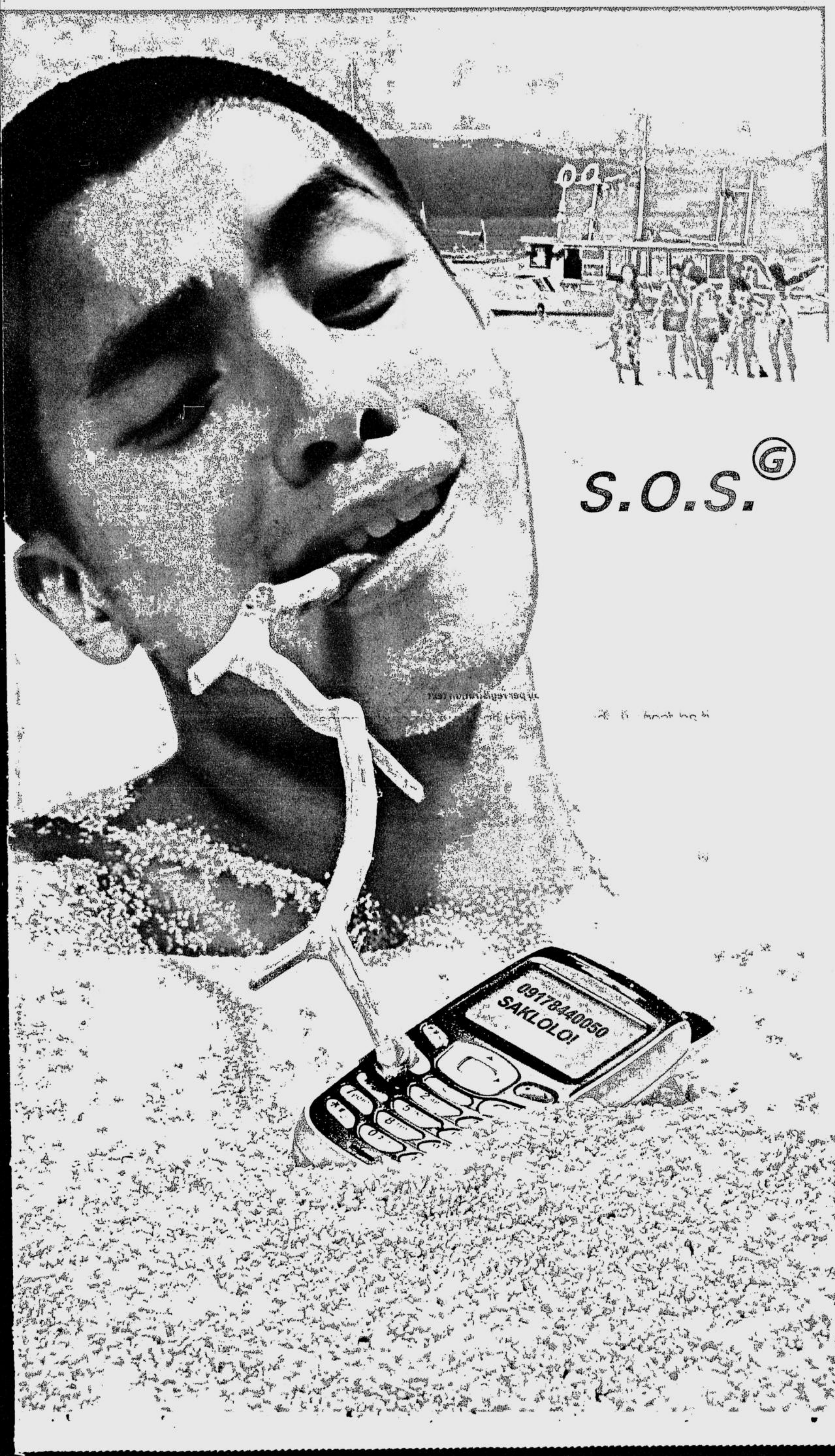
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90 days

THE CAMPAIGN period which ended yesterday was nasty, brutish—and long. For 90 days the country essentially put everything on hold; investors certainly did, adopting a wait-and-see attitude. News events—such as, the San Miguel stockholders meeting and the al-Qaida bombings in far-away Spain—took on political color.

The three months seemed even longer because of the negative tone of much of the campaigning. The viciousness was especially apparent in the vice-presidential contest, with the camps of Senators Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda trading charges through full-page ads. (Now the race is a close one, with the May 1-4 Social Weather Stations survey showing the gap narrowing to 4 percentage points, with 14 percent undecided.)

EDITORIAL

Election politics, it seems, is truly the extension of war by other means.

In the last 90 days, we have seen the successful use of a new weapon of mass distraction, the strategic lawsuit, as well as the deployment of an old reliable, campaign advertising. We have also seen the return of the blitzkrieg technique of whistle-stop campaigning, and the phase-out (temporary, we hope) of the presidential debate. We have seen discipline—party discipline, message discipline, scheduling discipline—once again play a critical role in securing the electoral battlefield. Above all, we have seen the ascendancy of the surveys, which has transformed the way the fighting is done. The elections tomorrow will either prove to be their undoing, or the final proof that there is (scientific) method in their madness.

Lawsuit as campaign tactic. The campaign started to the sound, not of a firing gun, but the shuffling of petition papers. The disqualification cases filed against presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. launched a cycle of suits and counter-suits. Many were designed to showcase the petitioners' strength or compensate for the lack of it. Hence, presidential rival Raul Roco's intervention before the Supreme Court, to highlight his legal reputation. Hence, the counter-disqualification cases filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo by senatorial candidates Boots Anson-Roa and Amina Rasul, the weakest in the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino lineup. Hence, the many lawsuits filed by the lawyer Melanio "Batas" Mauricio, a relatively unknown candidate for the Senate. And so on and so forth. All of the cases have been dismissed, but the publicity windfall for the petitioners has been considerable.

Advertising as campaign rhetoric. The tracking firms are still tallying the totals, but there is little doubt that candidates, especially those for national office, spent heavily on advertising. That two relative unknowns—Jamby Madrigal of the opposition and Pia Cayetano of the administration—find themselves in the Top 12 of the latest SWS survey is proof positive of the value of repetition (the secret to successful advertising). The historian Daniel Boorstin once called advertising the rhetoric of democracy. Its power to persuade is most clearly seen in Mar Roxas' campaign for the Senate, and in presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson's decision to replace his *miting de avance* with an extended TV ad.

The whistle-stop as campaign strategy. The decision to make the most of Poe's celebrity by relying heavily on motorcades, where he could be seen by more people but would have fewer chances to talk, played to the candidate's strengths. In its own limited scope, it was successful. But it did not address the need to engage the public in substantive discussion. In contrast, the other campaigns went house-to-house or market-to-market, with an intensity not seen since Diosdado Macapagal's campaign in 1961.

Surveys as campaign measure. The campaign ended in a flurry of last-minute surveys. Many of the candidates have been in denial about the accuracy of the SWS and Pulse Asia polls, but those who accepted the results used them to guide their campaigns, spending more time in areas they were trailing in and raising adspend where it was needed. Even media, contending with the emergence of a new opinion-shaping institution, have yet to fully come to terms with the survey firms' new role. But precisely because voters decide according to their own lights, scientific polls are by and large accurate. Those who denied this, preferring to substitute anecdotal evidence for scientific, have paid the price.

Elections tomorrow

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

TOMORROW is the second Monday of May when, pursuant to the Constitution, the Philippine electorate will vote for the President of the Philippines, the Vice President, 12 senators, all the district and party-list members of the House of Representatives, and the local officials.

There are more than 42 million registered voters this year, including the overseas absentee voters, who already started casting their votes last April 11.

By legislative folly signed into law by the President, these absentee voters include even immigrants who have acquired permanent residence abroad and have thereby lost their original domicile in the Philippines. The Supreme Court has rejected that universal rule and confirmed in these persons two permanent domiciles at the same time.

The presidential candidates are Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Fernando Poe Jr., Raul Roco, Panfilo Lacson and Eduardo Villanueva. The vice-presidential candidates are Noli de Castro for GMA, Loren Legarda for FPJ, and Herminio Aquino for Roco. Lacson and Villanueva have no running mates.

President Macapagal's senatorial ticket includes Robert Barbers, Mar Roxas, Rodolfo Biazon, Pia Cayetano, and eight others. Poe's opposite slate has Alfredo Lim, Jamby Madrigal, and Boots Anson Roa, among others. Francisco Chavez, Melanio Mauricio, and Bong Coo are among Roco's would-be senators. Lacson has Carlos Padilla as his lone senatorial candidate, and Villanueva has none.

Both of the major contending parties include entertainers relying mostly on their appeal to the *bakya* crowd. These are Lito Lapid and Bong Revilla from the administration and Jinggoy Estrada from the opposition. Not one of them is known for any political achievement or intellectual endowment. The title of senator for these presumptuous candidates is hardly fitting if not comical were it not so absurd.

Some senatorial candidates are discards from past elections like Francisco Tatad and Juan Ponce Enrile, who were the chief defenders of Joseph Estrada during his impeachment. Orly Mercado and Miriam Defensor-Santiago were also on Erap's side but are now with GMA. Already all past middle age, Escudero, like John Osmeña, answers to the nickname "Sonny," Ernesto Herrera to "Boy," and Aquilino Pimentel to "Nene."

As in previous elections, not all the registered voters will go to the polls tomorrow even as some of them will vote more than once. (Al Capone once boasted that he had done his civic duty by voting 11 times in one election.) As usual, many persons will wait until the late hours of the voting period to sell their votes at top rates to desperate candidates.

The campaign that ended yesterday was different from the campaign of earlier years, where the political parties discussed principles and policies, not show biz. For example, where the Liberal Party was strongly pro-American and the Nacionalista Party espoused Filipinism and independence, the voters judged them on the strength of their opposite advocacies. Amusement at the rallies was neither offered nor expected.

There were no serious issues in the current campaign, but the *masa* enjoyed plenty of entertainment. Entertainment was in fact the order of the new politics. The people attended the meetings not to mull the problems of the country but to see the *artistas* perform for them. Their songs and dances were calculated to persuade the audience to vote for the impresario of the show, viz., the candidates and their party.

The candidates themselves often joined the performers, like no less than President Macapagal herself who cheapened her high office by undulating in ethnic costumes to the beat of tribal gongs. The dignified Lacson should be applauded for declining to croon for the voters' support.

With GMA and FPJ as the top presidential contenders, the thinking citizen must be worried about the future. Either of them as the head of the government for the next six years can only aggravate the nation's problems. The other three candidates may be much better, or at least less potentially harmful. But none of them is likely to survive the juggernaut of the two front-runners.

Our only hope could be in the Senate, but it is not much of a hope either. In general, the candidates are a sorry contrast to their predecessors in past decades. There are some worthies among them, like Robert Barbers, Francisco Chavez and Heherson Alvarez, but most of the other candidates do not deserve the people's attention.

I will not vote in the party-list election because it offends the rule of the majority as a hallmark of democratic government. Moreover, it permits the party-list representative to be chosen blindly even if he is not acceptable to the voter. Party-list nominees are not supposed to be divulged beforehand, and I may be unknowingly voting for a scoundrel.

We should heed the trite but right suggestion that despite the surveys and the entertainment and the other irrelevant inducements for our votes, we should exercise our right of suffrage as our conscience bids us. It is not upon the candidates that the salvation of our country depends but upon us as responsible and free citizens.

When will we ever learn?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a fox who told a bird that he would give a worm in exchange for a feather. Wonderful, the bird thought. A new way to get worms easily! So the bird pulled out a feather from one of its wings, and in return he received a worm. But soon, the bird had plucked out so many feathers that it could no longer fly away, and so the fox jumped on it, and ate it up, easily.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 13, 31-35) Jesus gives us a new commandment to love one another. A lot of religions also speak about love, but it was only Jesus who commanded that we love one another "just as I have loved you." With Jesus, love ceased to be just an ideal. He concretized it, and he elevated the limits of love to the max. Jesus showed us the way of true love by His very life, and by the way He died for others.

* * *

A lot of "foxes" are on the loose these days, promising worms to innocent and helpless birds they will eventually devour. Tomorrow, as we go to the polls, let us not exchange our feathers for worms. Let us not give or sell our votes to people whom we know will just eat us once they are in power. Looking at the way we do politics in our country, I can say we are still a long way from Jesus' mandate of loving one another. Expect a lot of using one another, buying one another, cheating one another, destroying one another, and even eliminating one another. When, oh when, will we ever learn?

* * *

Two things sadden me in these coming elections: the poverty of choices, and the power of money. We really don't have much choice given the kind of candidates we have before us. Many of them, I'm afraid will be chosen on the basis of *puwede na rin, okay lang*, lesser evil *na lang*. The other sad thing is that money has become the bottom line. Logistics, machinery and winnability have become the deciding factors in our elections. We are still very much in the three G's of Guns, Goons and Gold. Here's praying that someday soon we will uphold the three G's of God, Goodness and Guts. When, oh when, will we ever learn?

* * *

On the eve of the elections, let us pause and remember our mothers. Happy Mother's Day! If only we went back to the basic lessons and examples our mothers gave us, then we will learn what it is really like to love one another. A mother's heart approximates God's heart closest. Mothers rarely operate on a quid pro quo basis. They simply love, sans fanfare, sans conditions, sans agenda. And yet, mothers are the ones who are most neglected, most hurt, and often, least appreciated. Such is the fate of those who truly and really love. And, as fate would have it, they continue loving anyway. God bless you, dear mothers!

* * *

Believe me, this country continues to run because there are simple, hardworking, dedicated, loving mothers out there who love, in season and out of season; and, definitely, not like our politicians who "love" us only during, and only because of elections. Come to think of it, we should be grateful that our country is still running after all these years, in spite of our politicians.

* * *

We all have fond memories of our own mothers. Let us take time to remember and cherish them, especially today. Personally, I cherish the memory of Mama who would go to us and cover us, her children, with blankets at night when she thought we were already sleeping. I can never forget waking up at night and seeing my mother making sure that we, her children, were all right. Mothers, may you continue your beautiful mission of leaving behind beautiful memories to your sons and daughters.

* * *

Through my cousin Kuya Pakit Muñoz, I am one of those who had the privilege to watch the Andrea Bocelli concert last April 30. It was an amazing experience. Many times during the concert, I was brought to a moment of prayer. What an inspiration to see how a person can rise above personal deprivation and handicap and raise up others as well. What struck me though was Marcello Rota, the conductor of the orchestra, who not only provided the beautiful musical accompaniment, but who gave the perfect assist as well. The sight of Rota leading blind master Bocelli by the hand before and after every number is a memory I will long remember, a beautiful reminder for all of us to help one another, and love one another.

* * *

May the Blessed Mother bless our motherland! May she raise up in our midst sons and daughters who work not just for the elections, but for the good of the nation. Let us all pray and work for fair, peaceful and just elections. Watch out for the "foxes." Let us hold on to the Lord's promise that the meek and the righteous will inherit the earth.

* * *

A Moment with the Lord

Lord, teach us as your children and as a people to really love one another, just as you have loved us. Amen.

The more interesting contest

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ACTUALLY the best news for the country last week was the victory of 25-year-old Jennifer Rosales at the Chick-A-Fil Charity Championship in Georgia. It was her first-ever title on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour in the United States and the come-from-behind win was made sweeter by a field which included Swedish superstar and the world's No. 1 lady golfer, Annika Sorenstam. For some time now, we have been cheering for Jennifer as she remained on the leader board during the early rounds of previous tournaments, only to see her fade away in the homestretch. This time however, trailing by four strokes, she caught up with the leader, a Thai teenager, Aree Song, and held on to a one-stroke margin, netting her a paycheck of $240,000, quite a sum even by LPGA standards.

The only other Filipina who has scored on the LPGA circuit is Dorothy Delasin. Let us hope this is the start of more championships for Jennifer Rosales. With discipline, determination and a bit of help from lady luck, Jennifer should be able to continue her winning form in the months ahead.

Jennifer now becomes the latest inspirational model for all our young athletes who have started to hone their careers in competitive golf. The great thing about this sport is that you don't need height, speed, or exceptional strength to excel; so it is the kind of activity in which Filipinos have a fighting chance even in the international arena. Which reminds me once again about Athens. While recent bomb explosions in the city have put a cloud of doubt as to the staging of the Games in August, our sports officials must now focus and devote their attention to our participation particularly in boxing events which represent our best chance for a first Olympic gold medal. We need a victory in Athens to boost our people's morale after a debilitating election campaign which has mercifully come to an end.

Another Filipino making history is Christy Achanzar of Davao City, the first female cadet from the Philippine Military Academy to be accepted at West Point. She and another cadet from Zamboanga City, Mario Feliciano, leave for the United States, joining some 1,200 cadets of the US Military Academy Class of 2008. Like the present AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, the two cadets spent a year at Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City, before their selection for West Point. Incidentally, with the growing requirements of the US Armed Forces because of Iraq and Afghanistan, do not discount the possibility of the US Navy once again reviving its old policy of tapping young Filipinos as a source for manpower.

* * *

If one goes by the surveys, particularly the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia, it appears that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is going to have another six years in Malacañang. While both polling organizations are quite credible, when it comes to surveys I am reminded of a presidential election some 56 years ago in the United States. It was November 1948 and the main protagonists were Harry Truman, the incumbent US president who succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Thomas Dewey, Republican governor of the state of New York. There were also two other candidates: one was Gov. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, leading a group of Southern Democrats calling themselves "Dixiecrats" with a platform based on racial segregation; the other was Commerce Secretary Henry Wallace, who ran under the banner of the Progressive Party, with a lot of communist support.

Earlier, a poll of some 50 highly regarded political writers indicated an overwhelming victory for Dewey. The Las Vegas bookies also had it 15-1 in favor of the New York governor. In the end, "the man from Missouri" defeated Thomas Dewey by over 2 million votes. It was the greatest upset in American political history. One of the most famous pictures to come out of the campaign was that of President Truman holding up a copy of the Chicago Tribune with the headline "DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN." Grinning from ear to ear, he seemed to be saying, "Don't believe everything you read in the papers."

* * *

The more interesting contest tomorrow is not the GMA-FPJ race but that between Bro. Eddie Villanueva and Sen. Panfilo Lacson. The *miting de avance* of Brother Eddie at the Luneta last Thursday was a revelation. There may be arguments as to whether the size of the group was one, or three or five million, but no one is claiming that this was a "*hakot*" crowd. People who joined this rally must have done so on sheer frustration with the characters and clowns who now dominate the political scene. Let us also keep in mind that Brother Eddie has his own television station so he is not all that unknown to the public.

In the case of Lacson, people are yearning for a strong hand in government (*kamay na bakal*). While many fear him, they also realize that this is part of his attraction. And as we all know, his tenure as PNP chief was marked by the return of carnapped vehicles to their owners, some of which were being used by police officers. Have you heard of any similar action since then by police authorities?

If anyone can upset the polls, it is either Villanueva or Lacson, but whatever is the final outcome, a far more interesting race would be who gets more votes, the preacher or the policeman.

'Money Politics' vs Democracy

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

IN 1953, Ramon Magsaysay transformed Philippine politics forever. Until then, a candidate won elections by wooing the old landed elite, who in turn pledged the votes of entire *haciendas*. Why bother courting each *sacada* in the plantations when wining and dining the sugar barons was far more efficient and certainly more fun? Our democratic institutions were veneered over feudal allegiances, and old money continued to hold sway beneath the fiction of political equality.

Magsaysay changed all that; he did not merely win the elections, he changed the rules of the game altogether. He went directly to the common folk. He presented himself plainly as "The Guy" and campaigned on a catchy tune ("Mambo, Magsaysay ... Our democracy will die, *Kung Wala si Magsaysay*"). He had dropped out of engineering at UP, eventually earning his degree elsewhere; was derided as unsophisticated and inelegant, unable to match wits with his learned, patrician opponent and—horrors—was not a lawyer but a "mere mechanic." In the end, he won by a landslide and until today continues to command the love and loyalty of a whole generation of Filipinos. By his victory, he showed that a politician can bypass the power of the elite, and win not just the presidency but the hearts of the people as well.

The campaign season that has just ended, however, has shown how badly our democracy has since been eroded. Ironically, while we have tried to bring elections closer to the people, we have also restored what Chief Justice Hilario Davide reviled as "the politics of the elite, the rich, the powerful and the pedigreed." Consider access to television, for instance, that has brought the campaign in full color into the living rooms of the Filipino family. Until recently, Congress had banned paid political ads on TV in an attempt to level the playing field in electoral campaigns, because only those with huge campaign war chests could afford them. The Supreme Court twice upheld the ban, and concluded that the legendary "marketplace of ideas can prove to be nothing but a romantic illusion if the electoral process is badly skewed, if not corrupted, by the unbridled use of money for campaign propaganda." Congress has since lifted the ban, responding to critics who said that the ban favored candidates who were already famous. Rather than neutralize the power of money, they preferred to neutralize the fame and visibility of the celebrities.

On the other hand, survey groups, while purporting to give us advance snapshots of the democratic will, have actually shaped electoral results through the bandwagon effect that, coupled with our chaotic multi-party system, induces voters to choose only from among the winnables. Yet the Supreme Court has upheld the right of polling groups to publish their findings at the height of election season and to conduct exit polls on election day. The Court ministered to the voters' right to be informed, and the pollsters' right to speak, both of which lie at the heart of the democratic process. In doing so, the Court placed its trust, and properly so, on the Filipino voter not to allow himself to be manipulated by "lies, damned lies and statistics."

But the "polluting effect of money in election campaigns" is felt in even more insidious ways. The GMA juggernaut, for instance, has marshaled all the resources of government into what Time magazine has called as a "melding" of roles as "both President and presidential candidate." The timely distribution of largesse—T-shirts, jobs, health care, free train tickets—has become the most potent campaign weapon.

The most sinister threat to Philippine democracy, however, lies in our attitudes to our electorate. Recently a foreign diplomat asked me why, despite our democratic traditions, the most frequently repeated words she hears in this campaign season is "the ignorant Filipino voter." How can we so loudly proclaim our love for democracy and yet so comfortably demean the voter—the "particle of sovereignty" in the words of Justice Laurel—as stupid and unthinking? Many educated Filipinos have even proposed to limit suffrage—the right to vote and be voted upon—only to college graduates, a worse perversity, if I may say. Its intellectual provenance is distinguished; one recalls the slave owners who would rule Plato's republic and the property owners who would guard liberty in Locke's government. But its political provenance is foul, because it aims to disenfranchise the very people whose labors sustain the nation. Its first victims will be a good number of overseas Filipino workers whose hard work generates the hard currency needed by our industries, our consumers and, come to think of it, our jet set.

"Government of the people, by the people, and for the people" requires that we trust the people. Electoral politics has indeed come full circle since Ramon Magsaysay snatched the presidential elections away from the old aristocrats. Old money has joined hands with tainted money to maneuver and belittle the sovereign will. Claro M. Recto said that whoever declared "*Vox populi, vox dei*" (The voice of the people is the voice of God) is not aware of "political ventriloquism." Today ventriloquists abound but have higher ambitions, not satisfied to mimic merely the "*vox populi*," and now purporting to speak even "*vox dei*" as well.

The great Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., in the most famous dissenting opinion in the English language, said: The Constitution "is an experiment, as all life is an experiment. Every year, if not every day, we wager our salvation upon some prophecy based on imperfect knowledge." Tomorrow we will test once again the Constitution's promise that the sovereign people shall rule, and wager the country's salvation upon the next, imperfect president of our fragile Republic.

Postscript on Bocelli

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SHE has already talked with the managers of Josh Groban, the young "crossover" singer who matches his luscious, plumy voice with luscious, plumy good looks, says Baby Arenas, but her heart is no longer in her self-assigned mission of bringing to the Philippines world-class artists and performers.

"Baby A" is best known these days as the courageous impresario who managed to bring Andrea Bocelli to Manila to perform at the Araneta Coliseum. Risking fortune and reputation and betting on the capacity of Filipinos to give Bocelli a reception worthy of his global prominence, Arenas managed to pull off the near-impossible—a concert of classical songs that not only displayed Bocelli's artistry as well as that of the all-Filipino orchestra and his Italian conductor and guest soprano, but also drew a full crowd at the Araneta Coliseum, better known as the venue for pop acts and rock concerts.

But this Arenas says she managed to do only with the help of friends from the private sector: her media partner ABS-CBN, the Araneta Center management and sponsors like the Mandarin Oriental, Globe, Unilab, Nestlé, Segafredo, Jaguar and St. Luke's Medical Center's Voice Center. Arenas directs the brunt of her ire at government agencies that should have seen, but apparently did not, the enormity of the stakes in the successful staging of the Bocelli concert.

"The Department of Tourism did not lift a finger to help me," she declared at a recent "appreciation" lunch she hosted for the media and sponsors at the Mandarin. Neither former Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon nor his successor Obet Pagdanganan returned or took her calls, even when the world-famous tenor expressed a desire to visit Pagsanjan Falls and our world-famous beaches.

And as if to rub salt on raw wounds, a few days after Bocelli's departure, both Gordon and Pagdanganan were practically falling over themselves hosting and fawning over fading action star Steven Seagal. Sure, he's well-known, but certainly not in the same league as the "Fourth Tenor!"

* * *

EVEN ensuring Bocelli and party's security didn't seem all that urgent a matter to law enforcement agencies. As media folk all exclaimed: "Imagine what would have happened to the Philippines' image if something happened to Bocelli while he was here!"

Arenas recounts with exasperation the many phone calls she had to make to police and military officials, practically begging for security support. "If it were not for my personal friends among the generals, I doubt if even one policeman would have showed up to protect Bocelli!" she exclaims.

"Baby A" wishes to make clear that Malacañang, including President Macapagal-Arroyo who bought tickets to the concert even if her campaign schedule didn't permit her to make time for Bocelli, gave whatever support it could to the endeavor. Still, she says, government could certainly have done more to help her pull off this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Sure, "Andrea Bocelli Live in Manila" was a purely private endeavor and government was in no way obligated to pave the way for its successful staging. But surely our officials, especially entities like the Department of Tourism and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, realized that while the tenor was within our borders, the eyes of the world—or at the very least those of his considerable following—would be on the Philippines, especially since it would be only his second visit to Asia.

For now, all we can do is heave a huge sigh of relief that the concert pushed through with only minor irritants, and that Bocelli "saw the smiles of the Filipino people" as he so charmingly put it to Baby A's niece Marilen at the concert's close.

But if "Wow Philippines" could stage a warm welcome for the likes of Seagal, then surely it could have made an effort to welcome Bocelli properly. Please get your act together before Baby Arenas drops plans to bring Josh Groban here!

* * *

MORE than a week after Bocelli's performance, stories still abound about the blind tenor and how much he enjoyed his very brief stay in our country.

Marilen, who as Arenas' executive assistant bore the brunt of managing the thousand and one details that come with bringing a world-class talent to your hometown, has a wealth of anecdotes on her biggest "*alaga*" yet.

The night after the concert at around 1 a.m., Marilen recounts, she got a call from the Mandarin staff telling her that Bocelli wanted to go to Pagsanjan that morning. Because he had to be back to Manila for a dinner with the Italian ambassador, time was of the essence.

And so, after Marilen hurriedly scared up a few vehicles and security people, Bocelli, his executive assistant, his manager and his girlfriend were soon on their way to Pagsanjan. His companions say the tenor was charmed by the river cruise, especially when some children on the riverbanks began calling out "Bocelli! Bocelli!" upon catching sight of him.

"Nobody knows how or why he found out about Pagsanjan," recalls Marilen. Though still a beguiling sight, Pagsanjan Falls has fallen off the beaten track of domestic tourism, and in fact when Marilen began making queries, she was warned about various unsavory characters populating the town. Still, having made it to the falls and back, Bocelli made it back in time for the ambassador's dinner.

The next day, it was time for Bocelli to experience our beaches, as a guest of Baby A in her Nasugbu beach house. It was here, says Marilen, that she saw first hand how "generous" Bocelli could be. While he was in the water, "feeling" the waves and sand, only briefly, he sought shelter beneath a tent and loudly joined his girlfriend and friends as they laughingly and noisily enjoyed the warm waters and surf. Certainly a man worth our hospitality.

Can I trust this person?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

TOMORROW, May 10, we vote for people who, we hope, will lead our nation to a better future. Many remain undecided because while their instincts incline them toward certain candidates, their conscience and/or intellect compel them to override their intuitions.

There is nothing extraordinary in this. We often start with a basic attraction or dislike for persons. This is usually rooted in some past experience of which we may be largely unconscious. Intuitions have their own history. We feel good when our conscience and intellect agree with our instincts. We feel miserable when they clash.

Some prefer that conscience be the final arbiter of how we should act, forgetting that even the voice of conscience itself can be subjected to a test of validity. Others choose the rational way, unaware that rationality itself is premised on certain values. In both instances, the thinking process is served well when we are clear about our values.

In considering the life of nations, I have personally found useful as a tool for validating political intuitions a framework that revolves around the idea of growth as a value. Thus, I am convinced that the leaders we are looking for particularly in these elections are those who can rescue our nation from the stagnation in which it has been mired in the last 20 years.

The lack of growth is most obvious in our economic life. Any independent observer will tell us that we've been living way beyond our means. Our large external and budget deficits, especially in the last three years, and our ballooning foreign debt attest to this. The degrading poverty of about 70 percent of Filipino households, most of whom live on less than $2 a day, shows the extent of this economic stagnation. The high unemployment rate at home and the desperate rush of many of our people for menial jobs abroad testify to the fundamental weakness of our economy. We are not producing enough wealth to take care of even the most minimal needs of our rapidly expanding population.

Our political life is equally stunted. Our capacity to govern ourselves—to set goals for the nation, solve its recurrent problems, and engage the energy of every citizen in the attainment of collective goals—is very much in doubt. We continue to look to America for help and guidance in solving our basic problems. Eighteen years after overthrowing the Marcos dictatorship, we have not moved beyond the restoration of the dysfunctional democracy that martial law dismantled in 1972. Political dynasties maintain a virtual grip on political power at the local level. The rule of law is trumped at every step by the powerful levers of a personalistic system run by patronage. Our electoral system is one of the most chaotic and unreliable in this part of the world. Our formal institutions, borrowed wholesale from the West, are not animated by the moral intuitions of our people.

Our cultural life, or what passes for it, is an infantile copy of American pop culture. The models and sources of identity of young Filipinos come almost entirely from American show biz. Our people's self-understanding bears little relationship, if any, to the nation's heroic past or to an imagined moral destiny. Our traditions have become less and less a source of meaning in everyday life. Our educational system does not produce courageous Filipinos raring to build their country but only trained personnel destined for a global market.

Growth does not come naturally to nations. The first impediment to growth has always been lack of unity. That is why the great leaders in history are those who are remembered as the unifiers of their people. They gathered the strength of their people and gave it a focus. Such leaders were themselves exemplary human beings who acted out of a consciousness of national purpose. They demanded no less from their people.

None of the late-developing nations, whose economic achievements we admire and envy—Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, China—succeeded without harnessing the power of a strong interventionist state. Far from subsuming national planning to the blind will of the market, the willful leaders of these nations used every power of the state to build capability, maximize opportunity, and democratize access to the basic necessities of life.

Economic growth is paramount because it is the key to solving the problem of poverty that lies at the root of the internal conflicts that divide nations. The conventional wisdom up to this time is that late-developing countries cannot achieve growth without becoming authoritarian. We are surrounded by nations that seem to support this view. Yet our experience with the Marcos dictatorship tells us a different story. It is difficult to imagine, given our experience, that we will ever again allow a dictator to tyrannize the whole nation.

Perhaps what we are looking for are not leaders we can fear but leaders we can trust—leaders who can unify the country by their wisdom, integrity, and deep sense of duty. I don't think we should be looking for messiahs. In these complex times, in a society as big as ours, no leader can govern without the trust and un-coerced support of a unified people. As I said at the beginning, it is always a good habit to search for a rational basis for our intuitions, but in the end, when we choose leaders, the bottom line is unavoidably intuitive: Can I trust this person?

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

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"As long as you get people with unquestionable integrity, people with the right mind and put them in the right places, then you will be all right."

—Former President Joseph Estrada on the task of governing the country

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The more interesting contest

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ACTUALLY the best news for the country last week was the victory of 25-year-old Jennifer Rosales at the Chick-A-Fil Charity Championship in Georgia. It was her first-ever title on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour in the United States and the come-from-behind win was made sweeter by a field which included Swedish superstar and the world's No. 1 lady golfer, Annika Sorenstam. For some time now, we have been cheering for Jennifer as she remained on the leader board during the early rounds of previous tournaments, only to see her fade away in the homestretch. This time however, trailing by four strokes, she caught up with the leader, a Thai teenager, Aree Song, and held on to a one-stroke margin, netting her a paycheck of $240,000, quite a sum even by LPGA standards.

The only other Filipina who has scored on the LPGA circuit is Dorothy Delasin. Let us hope this is the start of more championships for Jennifer Rosales. With discipline, determination and a bit of help from lady luck, Jennifer should be able to continue her winning form in the months ahead.

Jennifer now becomes the latest inspirational model for all our young athletes who have started to hone their careers in competitive golf. The great thing about this sport is that you don't need height, speed, or exceptional strength to excel; so it is the kind of activity in which Filipinos have a fighting chance even in the international arena. Which reminds me once again about Athens. While recent bomb explosions in the city have put a cloud of doubt as to the staging of the Games in August, our sports officials must now focus and devote their attention to our participation particularly in boxing events which represent our best chance for a first Olympic gold medal. We need a victory in Athens to boost our people's morale after a debilitating election campaign which has mercifully come to an end.

Another Filipino making history is Christy Achanzar of Davao City, the first female cadet from the Philippine Military Academy to be accepted at West Point. She and another cadet from Zamboanga City, Mario Feliciano, leave for the United States, joining some 1,200 cadets of the US Military Academy Class of 2008. Like the present AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, the two cadets spent a year at Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City, before their selection for West Point. Incidentally, with the growing requirements of the US Armed Forces because of Iraq and Afghanistan, do not discount the possibility of the US Navy once again reviving its old policy of tapping young Filipinos as a source for manpower.

* * *

If one goes by the surveys, particularly the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia, it appears that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is going to have another six years in Malacañang. While both polling organizations are quite credible, when it comes to surveys I am reminded of a presidential election some 56 years ago in the United States. It was November 1948 and the main protagonists were Harry Truman, the incumbent US president who succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Thomas Dewey, Republican governor of the state of New York. There were also two other candidates: one was Gov. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, leading a group of Southern Democrats calling themselves "Dixiecrats" with a platform based on racial segregation; the other was Commerce Secretary Henry Wallace, who ran under the banner of the Progressive Party, with a lot of communist support.

Earlier, a poll of some 50 highly regarded political writers indicated an overwhelming victory for Dewey. The Las Vegas bookies also had it 15-1 in favor of the New York governor. In the end, "the man from Missouri" defeated Thomas Dewey by over 2 million votes. It was the greatest upset in American political history. One of the most famous pictures to come out of the campaign was that of President Truman holding up a copy of the Chicago Tribune with the headline "DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN." Grinning from ear to ear, he seemed to be saying, "Don't believe everything you read in the papers."

* * *

The more interesting contest tomorrow is not the GMA-FPJ race but that between Bro. Eddie Villanueva and Sen. Panfilo Lacson. The *miting de avance* of Brother Eddie at the Luneta last Thursday was a revelation. There may be arguments as to whether the size of the group was one, or three or five million, but no one is claiming that this was a "*hakot*" crowd. People who joined this rally must have done so on sheer frustration with the characters and clowns who now dominate the political scene. Let us also keep in mind that Brother Eddie has his own television station so he is not all that unknown to the public.

In the case of Lacson, people are yearning for a strong hand in government (*kamay na bakal*). While many fear him, they also realize that this is part of his attraction. And as we all know, his tenure as PNP chief was marked by the return of carnapped vehicles to their owners, some of which were being used by police officers. Have you heard of any similar action since then by police authorities?

If anyone can upset the polls, it is either Villanueva or Lacson, but whatever is the final outcome, a far more interesting race would be who gets more votes, the preacher or the policeman.

'Money Politics' vs Democracy

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

IN 1953, Ramon Magsaysay transformed Philippine politics forever. Until then, a candidate won elections by wooing the old landed elite, who in turn pledged the votes of entire *haciendas*. Why bother courting each *sacada* in the plantations when wining and dining the sugar barons was far more efficient and certainly more fun? Our democratic institutions were veneered over feudal allegiances, and old money continued to hold sway beneath the fiction of political equality.

Magsaysay changed all that; he did not merely win the elections, he changed the rules of the game altogether. He went directly to the common folk. He presented himself plainly as "The Guy" and campaigned on a catchy tune ("Mambo, Magsaysay ... Our democracy will die, *Kung Wala si Magsaysay*"). He had dropped out of engineering at UP, eventually earning his degree elsewhere; was derided as unsophisticated and inelegant, unable to match wits with his learned, patrician opponent and—horrors—was not a lawyer but a "mere mechanic." In the end, he won by a landslide and until today continues to command the love and loyalty of a whole generation of Filipinos. By his victory, he showed that a politician can bypass the power of the elite, and win not just the presidency but the hearts of the people as well.

The campaign season that has just ended, however, has shown how badly our democracy has since been eroded. Ironically, while we have tried to bring elections closer to the people, we have also restored what Chief Justice Hilario Davide reviled as "the politics of the elite, the rich, the powerful and the pedigreed." Consider access to television, for instance, that has brought the campaign in full color into the living rooms of the Filipino family. Until recently, Congress had banned paid political ads on TV in an attempt to level the playing field in electoral campaigns, because only those with huge campaign war chests could afford them. The Supreme Court twice upheld the ban, and concluded that the legendary "marketplace of ideas can prove to be nothing but a romantic illusion if the electoral process is badly skewed, if not corrupted, by the unbridled use of money for campaign propaganda." Congress has since lifted the ban, responding to critics who said that the ban favored candidates who were already famous. Rather than neutralize the power of money, they preferred to neutralize the fame and visibility of the celebrities.

On the other hand, survey groups, while purporting to give us advance snapshots of the democratic will, have actually shaped electoral results through the bandwagon effect that, coupled with our chaotic multi-party system, induces voters to choose only from among the winnables. Yet the Supreme Court has upheld the right of polling groups to publish their findings at the height of election season and to conduct exit polls on election day. The Court ministered to the voters' right to be informed, and the pollsters' right to speak, both of which lie at the heart of the democratic process. In doing so, the Court placed its trust, and properly so, on the Filipino voter not to allow himself to be manipulated by "lies, damned lies and statistics."

But the "polluting effect of money in election campaigns" is felt in even more insidious ways. The GMA juggernaut, for instance, has marshaled all the resources of government into what Time magazine has called as a "melding" of roles as "both President and presidential candidate." The timely distribution of largesse—T-shirts, jobs, health care, free train tickets—has become the most potent campaign weapon.

The most sinister threat to Philippine democracy, however, lies in our attitudes to our electorate. Recently a foreign diplomat asked me why, despite our democratic traditions, the most frequently repeated words she hears in this campaign season is "the ignorant Filipino voter." How can we so loudly proclaim our love for democracy and yet so comfortably demean the voter—the "particle of sovereignty" in the words of Justice Laurel—as stupid and unthinking? Many educated Filipinos have even proposed to limit suffrage—the right to vote and be voted upon—only to college graduates, a worse perversity, if I may say. Its intellectual provenance is distinguished; one recalls the slave owners who would rule Plato's republic and the property owners who would guard liberty in Locke's government. But its political provenance is foul, because it aims to disenfranchise the very people whose labors sustain the nation. Its first victims will be a good number of overseas Filipino workers whose hard work generates the hard currency needed by our industries, our consumers and, come to think of it, our jet set.

"Government of the people, by the people, and for the people" requires that we trust the people. Electoral politics has indeed come full circle since Ramon Magsaysay snatched the presidential elections away from the old aristocrats. Old money has joined hands with tainted money to maneuver and belittle the sovereign will. Claro M. Recto said that whoever declared "*Vox populi, vox dei*" (The voice of the people is the voice of God) is not aware of "political ventriloquism." Today ventriloquists abound but have higher ambitions, not satisfied to mimic merely the "*vox populi*," and now purporting to speak even "*vox dei*" as well.

The great Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., in the most famous dissenting opinion in the English language, said: The Constitution "is an experiment, as all life is an experiment. Every year, if not every day, we wager our salvation upon some prophecy based on imperfect knowledge." Tomorrow we will test once again the Constitution's promise that the sovereign people shall rule, and wager the country's salvation upon the next, imperfect president of our fragile Republic.

Postscript on Bocelli

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SHE has already talked with the managers of Josh Groban, the young "crossover" singer who matches his luscious, plumy voice with luscious, plumy good looks, says Baby Arenas, but her heart is no longer in her self-assigned mission of bringing to the Philippines world-class artists and performers.

"Baby A" is best known these days as the courageous impresario who managed to bring Andrea Bocelli to Manila to perform at the Araneta Coliseum. Risking fortune and reputation and betting on the capacity of Filipinos to give Bocelli a reception worthy of his global prominence, Arenas managed to pull off the near-impossible—a concert of classical songs that not only displayed Bocelli's artistry as well as that of the all-Filipino orchestra and his Italian conductor and guest soprano, but also drew a full crowd at the Araneta Coliseum, better known as the venue for pop acts and rock concerts.

But this Arenas says she managed to do only with the help of friends from the private sector: her media partner ABS-CBN, the Araneta Center management and sponsors like the Mandarin Oriental, Globe, Unilab, Nestlé, Segafredo, Jaguar and St. Luke's Medical Center's Voice Center. Arenas directs the brunt of her ire at government agencies that should have seen, but apparently did not, the enormity of the stakes in the successful staging of the Bocelli concert.

"The Department of Tourism did not lift a finger to help me," she declared at a recent "appreciation" lunch she hosted for the media and sponsors at the Mandarin. Neither former Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon nor his successor Obet Pagdanganan returned or took her calls, even when the world-famous tenor expressed a desire to visit Pagsanjan Falls and our world-famous beaches.

And as if to rub salt on raw wounds, a few days after Bocelli's departure, both Gordon and Pagdanganan were practically falling over themselves hosting and fawning over fading action star Steven Seagal. Sure, he's well-known, but certainly not in the same league as the "Fourth Tenor!"

* * *

EVEN ensuring Bocelli and party's security didn't seem all that urgent a matter to law enforcement agencies. As media folk all exclaimed: "Imagine what would have happened to the Philippines' image if something happened to Bocelli while he was here!"

Arenas recounts with exasperation the many phone calls she had to make to police and military officials, practically begging for security support. "If it were not for my personal friends among the generals, I doubt if even one policeman would have showed up to protect Bocelli!" she exclaims.

"Baby A" wishes to make clear that Malacañang, including President Macapagal-Arroyo who bought tickets to the concert even if her campaign schedule didn't permit her to make time for Bocelli, gave whatever support it could to the endeavor. Still, she says, government could certainly have done more to help her pull off this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Sure, "Andrea Bocelli Live in Manila" was a purely private endeavor and government was in no way obligated to pave the way for its successful staging. But surely our officials, especially entities like the Department of Tourism and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, realized that while the tenor was within our borders, the eyes of the world—or at the very least those of his considerable following—would be on the Philippines, especially since it would be only his second visit to Asia.

For now, all we can do is heave a huge sigh of relief that the concert pushed through with only minor irritants, and that Bocelli "saw the smiles of the Filipino people" as he so charmingly put it to Baby A's niece Marilen at the concert's close.

But if "Wow Philippines" could stage a warm welcome for the likes of Seagal, then surely it could have made an effort to welcome Bocelli properly. Please get your act together before Baby Arenas drops plans to bring Josh Groban here!

* * *

MORE than a week after Bocelli's performance, stories still abound about the blind tenor and how much he enjoyed his very brief stay in our country.

Marilen, who as Arenas' executive assistant bore the brunt of managing the thousand and one details that come with bringing a world-class talent to your hometown, has a wealth of anecdotes on her biggest "*alaga*" yet.

The night after the concert at around 1 a.m., Marilen recounts, she got a call from the Mandarin staff telling her that Bocelli wanted to go to Pagsanjan that morning. Because he had to be back to Manila for a dinner with the Italian ambassador, time was of the essence.

And so, after Marilen hurriedly scared up a few vehicles and security people, Bocelli, his executive assistant, his manager and his girlfriend were soon on their way to Pagsanjan. His companions say the tenor was charmed by the river cruise, especially when some children on the riverbanks began calling out "Bocelli! Bocelli!" upon catching sight of him.

"Nobody knows how or why he found out about Pagsanjan," recalls Marilen. Though still a beguiling sight, Pagsanjan Falls has fallen off the beaten track of domestic tourism, and in fact when Marilen began making queries, she was warned about various unsavory characters populating the town. Still, having made it to the falls and back, Bocelli made it back in time for the ambassador's dinner.

The next day, it was time for Bocelli to experience our beaches, as a guest of Baby A in her Nasugbu beach house. It was here, says Marilen, that she saw first hand how "generous" Bocelli could be. While he was in the water, "feeling" the waves and sand, only briefly, he sought shelter beneath a tent and loudly joined his girlfriend and friends as they laughingly and noisily enjoyed the warm waters and surf. Certainly a man worth our hospitality.

Can I trust this person?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

TOMORROW, May 10, we vote for people who, we hope, will lead our nation to a better future. Many remain undecided because while their instincts incline them toward certain candidates, their conscience and/or intellect compel them to override their intuitions.

There is nothing extraordinary in this. We often start with a basic attraction or dislike for persons. This is usually rooted in some past experience of which we may be largely unconscious. Intuitions have their own history. We feel good when our conscience and intellect agree with our instincts. We feel miserable when they clash.

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN

Judgment Day: Who will get our vote?

THE 90-DAY campaign period for national elective posts and the 45-day campaign period for local elective posts ended yesterday. And yet, on the eve of the elections, many have yet to choose the candidates they will vote for. Between 12 percent and 16 percent of the voters had not chosen as of last week the candidates for president, vice president and senator, according to results of nationwide survey.

Some of those who had signified their intention to vote for a particular presidential or vice presidential candidate may yet change their mind.

Voters will also pass judgment on those running for congressman, party-list representation, governor, vice governor, mayor, vice-mayor, provincial board member and councilor. In all 17,656 elective posts are at stake.

Over the past three months, Talk of the Town presented the stand of the presidential, vice presidential and senatorial candidates on a number of issues. It also printed the critique by individuals and groups of the platform of government of each presidential candidate.

It's now up to us to choose the candidates we believe will bring about meaningful changes in the country and make a difference in our lives.

Presidential Candidates

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Lakas-CMD-K4

Comelec registered nickname: GMA
Date and place of birth: April 5, 1947, Manila
Spouse: Jose Miguel Tuason Arroyo
Children: Juan Miguel "Mikey," Lourdes Evangeline "Luli," and Diosdado "Dato"; 2 grandchildren
Residence: La Vista Subdivision, Diliman, Quezon City
Place where registered: Precinct No. 1, Barangay San Nicolas, Lubao, Pampanga
Declared net worth: P72.1 million (as of December 2002)
Education: Doctor of Philosophy in Economics (1985), University of the Philippines; MA in Economics (1978), Ateneo de Manila University; BS Economics, magna cum laude (1966-1968), Assumption College; BS Economics (1964-66), Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.; High School, valedictorian, Assumption Convent, 1964
Government service: Senator (1992-1998). As senator, she authored more than 50 laws on economic and social reforms. Vice President (1998-January 2001). Sworn in as the 14th President in 2001 during Edsa II, which ousted President Joseph Estrada. Secretary of Social Welfare (1998-2000). Executive Director, Garments and Textile Export Board (1988-1990), and Trade Undersecretary (1989-1992)
Professional experience/career: Chair, Economics Department, Assumption College (1984-1987); Professor, University of the Philippines, School of Economics (1977-1987); Assistant Professor, Ateneo de Manila University (1977-1987)

PANFILO MORENA LACSON

Comelec registered nickname: Ping
Date and place of birth: June 1, 1948, Imus, Cavite
Spouse: Alice de Perio Lacson
Children: Ronald Jay, Panfilo Jr. and Jeric; 2 grandchildren
Residence: BF Homes, Parañaque, Metro Manila
Declared net worth: P23.6 million (as of December 2002)
Place where registered: Barangay Bayan Luma II, Imus, Cavite
Education: Master in Government Management (1995-1996), Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila; Philippine Military Academy (1971); BS Engineering (1964-1967), Lyceum of the Philippines; High School, Imus Institute (1960-1964); Grade School, Bayang Luma Elementary School (1954-1960)
Government service: Senator (2001 to present); Chief, Philippine National Police (November 1999-January 2001), Chief, Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (1998-January 2001); Project Officer, Special Project Alpha (1996); Chief, Task Force Habagat, Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (1992-1995); Provincial Director, Laguna Philippine Constabulary (1992); Commander, Cebu Metrodiscom (1989-1992); Provincial Commander, Isabela, PC-INP; Anti-Carnapping Task Force (1986-1988); Metrocom and Intelligence and Security Group (1971-1986)

RONALD ALLAN POE/ FERNANDO POE JR.
Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino

Comelec registered nickname: FPJ
Date and place of birth: Aug. 20, 1939, Manila
Spouse: Maria Jesusa Purificacion Levy Sonora aka Susan Roces
Children: Mary Grace and Ron-an; 2 grandchildren
Residence: Greenhills Subdivision, San Juan, Metro Manila
Place where registered: Precinct No. 227-A, Barangay Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Declared net worth: Not available
Education: High School (dropped out in 2nd year) San Sebastian College, Mapua Institute of Technology and finally University of the East; Elementary (1953), San Beda College
Government service: None
Professional experience/career: Multi-awarded actor, director, scriptwriter and movie producer. His body of work includes some 260 movies where he often played a peace-loving defender of the poor and the oppressed. In 1961, he established FPJ Productions and later D'Lanor, Jafere and Rosas Productions, making him the first of his generation of stars to become his own producer. After dropping out of high school, he worked as messenger for a film exchange outfit (1955).

RAUL SAGARBARRIA ROCO
Aksyon Demokratiko-
Alyansa ng Pag-Asa

Comelec registered nickname: Raul
Date and place of birth: Oct. 26, 1941, Naga, Camarines Sur
Spouse: Sonia Malasarde Roco
Children: Robbie Pierre, Raul Jr., Sophia, Sareena, Rex and Synara; 4 grandchildren
Residence: Sta. Cruz, Naga City; La Vista Subdivision, Diliman, Quezon City
Place where registered: Precinct No. 232-A, Barangay Sta. Cruz, Naga, Camarines Sur
Declared net worth: P11.8 million (as of December 2001)
Education: Master of Comparative Law, University of Pennsylvania; Bachelor of Laws (1964) San Beda College; AB English, magna cum laude (1960), San Beda College; High School, Ateneo de Naga; Elementary, Ateneo de Naga
Government service: Secretary, Department of Education (2001-August 2002); Senator (1992-2001); Author of the law that reformed the Central Bank, earning him the title "father of the Bangko Sentral"; Congressman, 2nd District of Camarines Sur (1987-1992); As legal Staff in the Office of Sen. Ninoy Aquino, he drafted the Study Now, Pay Later Law; Delegate to the Constitutional Convention (1971)
Professional experience/career: Among the top 10 in the 1965 bar exams, Roco joined the Accra law office. The youngest president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines; youngest president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines; member, UP Board of Trustees: Executive producer of Lino Brocka's *Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang*."

EDUARDO CRUZ VILLANUEVA
Bangon Pilipinas

Comelec registered nickname: Bro. Eddie
Date and place of birth: Oct. 6, 1946, Bunlo, Bocaue, Bulacan
Spouse: Adoracion Jose Villanueva
Children: Eduardo Jr., Emmanuel Joel, Eleanor Villanueva-Tugna and Edelisha; 2 grandchildren
Residence: Bocaue, Bulacan
Place where registered: Precinct No. 121-A, Barangay Bunlo, Bocaue, Bulacan
Declared net worth: Not available
Education: Manager's Course (1977), Institute for Small Scale Industries, University of the Philippines; College of Law (under bar), University of the Philippines; Bachelor of Science in Commerce (1969), Philippine College of Commerce; High School (3rd and 4th year) Meycauayan Institute, (1st and 2nd year) St. Mary's Academy, Meycauayan, Bulacan; Elementary, Bambang Elementary School, Bocaue, Bulacan.
Professional experience/career: Spiritual director and international president, Jesus Is Lord Church Worldwide (JIL); Chair, Zoe Broadcasting Network Inc.; President, Jesus Is Lord Colleges Foundation, Inc; National chair, Philippine for Jesus Movement; Chair, God's People Coalition for Righteousness; Vice chair, Executive Council of the Christ for Asia; Member, International Bible Society (Philippines) Board of Trustees; Former TV host, *Diyos at Bayan*, *PJM Forum* and *Jesus The Healer*, Member, Board of Regents, PUP (1992-2002); Faculty member, PUP (1978-1979; 1969-1972); General manager, Agape Trading Co

Vice Presidential Candidates

HERMINIO SANCHEZ AQUINO
Aksyon Demokratiko -
Alyansa ng Pag-Asa

Comelec registered nickname: Hermie
Date and place of birth: April 25, 1949, Manila
Spouse: Ma. Victoria Guanzón Aquino
Children: R. Servillano II, Paolo Antonio, Ma. Therese Belinda. and Ma. Camille Corazon
Residence: San Jose, Concepcion, Tarlac; Ayala Heights, Quezon City
Place where registered: Precinct No. 360, Barangay San Jose, Concepcion, Tarlac
Declared net worth: P50 million
Education: Masters in Business Management (1971), Asian Institute of Management; AB Economics (1969), Ateneo de Manila University
Government service: Vice Governor of Tarlac (1998-2001); Congressman, 3rd District of Tarlac (1987-1998); Deputy Executive Secretary for Human Settlement (1986-1987); Chair, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council; Special Consultant to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (1971).
Professional experience/career: Chair, 7-Series Inc. (2001 to present); Chair, Trackworks Inc. (2001 to present); Chair and president, Buenavista Corp. (2001 to present); Deputy managing director, Trigon System, Inc. (1981); Director and vice president for finance, Circa Nila Development Corp. (1981-1983); President and manager, Luzon Area, First Countryside Credit Corp, (1979-1980); Senior consultant and general manager, MIDA (1972-1985); General manager, Aratills Manufacturing Corp. (1976-1978); Vice president and deputy manager, GA Machineries, Inc. (1974-1978); Instructor, San Juan De Letran (1974-1975); Project manager, Asian International Investment and Management (1971).

MANUEL DE CASTRO
Independent- K4

Comelec registered nickname: Kabayan/Noli
Date and place of birth: July 6, 1949, Pola, Oriental Mindoro
Spouse: Arlene Sinsuat de Castro
Children: Manuelle de Castro-Arcaya, Katherine de Castro-Cruz and Shamier Jordan; 1 grandchild
Residence: Tierra Pura Homes, Tandang Sora, Quezon City
Place where registered: Precinct No. 3442, Barangay Culiat, Quezon City
Declared net worth: P21.8 million (as of December 2002)
Education: Bachelor of Commerce (major in Banking and Finance) (1971), University of the East; High School, Pola Catholic High School; Elementary, Pola Central School
Government service: Senator (2001 to present)
Professional experience/career: Vice president, ABS-CBN, dzMM (July 1999 to February 2001); Anchor, *Kabayan* (July 1986 to 2001); Host, *Magandang Gabi Bayan* (1987 to present); Anchor (1987 to January 2001) and Overall Head of Production, *TV Patrol* (1999 to February 2001); Host, *Magandang Umaga* (1987-1988); Segment host, *Good Morning Philippines* (1986); Announcer, RPN, dwWW (1982-1986); Field reporter, dwWW (1976)

LOREN BAUTISTA LEGARDA
Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino

Comelec registered nickname: Loren
Date and place of birth: Jan. 28, 1960, Manila
Spouse: Jose Antonio Casals Leviste
Children: Lorenzo Antonio and Leandro Antonio
Residence: University Hills Subdivision, Malabon City
Place where registered: Precinct No. 740, Barangay Potrero, Malabon, Metro Manila
Declared net worth: P107.2 million (as of December 2002)
Education: Masters in National Security Administration, topnotcher (1993), National Defense College of the Philippines; AB Broadcast Communication, cum laude (1981), University of the Philippines; High School (1977), Assumption Convent; Elementary, Valedictorian (1973), Assumption Convent
Government service: Senator (1998 to present)
Professional experience/career: Columnist, Manila Bulletin (1993 to present); Executive producer/Anchor, *The Inside Story* (1990-1998); Author, "Pep Talk," The Book (1990); Anchor, *The World Tonight*, ABS-CBN; Host/producer, *Pep Talk* (1986-1990); Writer and producer for the media office of the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles, California, USA (1985-1986); Host/producer/writer, KSCI Channel 18, Los Angeles, California, USA; President, Trees for Life Foundation; President, Save our Seas Foundation

Data compiled by Chona Galang and Miner Generalao, PDI Research / Page design by Ernie Sumbo

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Making Mindanao people heard thru the vote

By Ryan D. Rosauro

EVERY election presents a challenge for the people of Mindanao to make their collective voice heard and impress upon would-be national leaders their preferred place in the scheme of things of the nation.

The May 10 polls touch an added chord of significance because it features a race for the presidency, a position that continues to evade capture by someone from Mindanao.

Whatever it is worth, elections usually bring with it a reference to the Mindanao vote.

In their attempt to court such vote, political parties have scouted for Mindanao personalities who could fill their senatorial slate. A party-list organization is also putting its hopes for a Congressional seat on such a political phenomenon.

The camp of actor Fernando Poe Jr. has the most number of Mindanao-bred candidates with Amina Rasul, Didagen Dilangalen and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel.

But is there really such a thing as a Mindanao vote?

Opportunity wasted

A look at Mindanao's electoral experience point to every election as a seemingly wasted opportunity for the people of Mindanao to attain a greater level of representation and presence in national governance.

This is evident in the poor showing of Mindanao's national candidates in previous polls, and even in local surveys of the winnability of the present set of senatorial candidates. The surveys are a race between seasoned and nationally popular politicians, and personalities from tinseltown.

The election as a popularity contest is defeating the rise of a kind of politics based on agenda rather than personality; and it is a double whammy for Mindanao because it is stunting further the chances of its brilliant sons and daughters to attain national positions that ensure greater representation for its people.

As long as this persists, the chances of greater integration into the national body politic of the Muslim and Lumad populations of the island will remain a devoutly-wished objective.

At the national level, the surveys speak only of two—Pimentel and Sen. Robert Barbers—among seven Mindanao senatorial candidates who are running for a berth in the 12 Senate seats that are up for grabs.

The figure is not that good for advancing a Mindanao agenda in the Senate. Even the gesture of scampering for someone from Mindanao in order to court the Mindanao vote does not goad well for "playing" with such a perceived asset of the beleaguered island during the elections.

Among the crucial issues that need to be addressed by a national policy are strengthening the governance structures in the autonomous Muslim region to secure the gains of peace building, and putting the island's economy in the track of sustainable growth by increasing the island's share of the national wealth.

The strong focus of the current campaign on the presidential race is leaving out Mindanao issues in the senatorial candidates' discourse during sorties.

Of the seven senatorial candidates from Mindanao, only three are consistent articulators of Mindanao issues: Pimentel, Rasul and Parouk Hussin.

Pimentel is a lengthy speaker on the subject of redrawing the politico-administrative structure of the country in order to achieve greater representation of Mindanaoans in national governance.

Hussin is an excellent source of experience-based thoughts on peace-building. He is thus dubbed by fellow K-4 senatorial candidates as a warrior for peace.

Rasul is passionate in her platform of widening the entrepreneurial opportunities for Mindanao's youth.

Peace

The challenge of sustaining peace efforts tops the Mindanao agenda. This would mean the commitment of more resources for socio-economic programs that address poverty, the root of insurgency, whether communist-led or Moro secessionist.

Allowing the people of Mindanao a greater say also in deciding the track and tempo of peace-building is crucial in this regard, especially coming out of the experience of a "toothless" all-Mindanaoan peace panel. Of late, the question of peace in Mindanao is largely decided in Manila.

The flow of resources into Mindanao development programs has been ticklish between Mindanao leaders and whoever wields the national government power.

It is a foregone conclusion that Mindanao continues to be the least priority of every Luzon-based Malacañang tenant. It has become common saying that while Luzon's roads are being built and rebuilt every so often, Mindanao's roads are awaiting funding for earthworks.

The sustainability of peace efforts is underpinned by that commitment of resources for local development.

Structure

Another peace-building concern is strengthening the governance structure and systems of the Muslim autonomous region. This would require, among others, a secure flow of resources for its operations so that Muslim leaders no longer kowtow to the powers-that-be and become political rent-seekers. In addition, it would also require the modernization of the governance outlook of Muslim leaders and their subjects.

The issue of greater access to government resources of Mindanao's local governments falls into the challenge of enhancing local autonomy.

But more to it, Mindanao is a major stakeholder in the Constitutional amendment to change the form of government. The height of the charter change discussions was a shift from presidential to parliamentary form.

Through a federal setup, local governments will have greater control of local affairs through enhanced political and economic administration, while the central government will be confined to taking charge of purely national matters like foreign policy and national security.

The fate of the shift to federalism surely affect the people of Mindanao.

DUGONG MINDANAW

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Bishops burn symbols of elections' 3 'Gs'

BACOLOD CITY—Bishops Vicente Navarra of Bacolod and Jose Advincula of San Carlos on Thursday burned fake money to symbolize the Church's rejection of vote-buying.

The bishops also led about 500 priests, nuns and lay ministers in the burning of drawings of goons near the San Sebastian Cathedral in Bacolod City.

The paper money and drawing of goons symbolized the use of guns, gold and goons by traditional politicians during the elections.

But torching these symbols indicated the people's rejection of such abuse, said Navarra during the culmination of the day-long activity on Thursday, which was declared by the Church leaders as a day of prayer and fasting.

The nuns, priests and lay leaders from the dioceses of Kabankalan, Bacolod and San Carlos converged at the cathedral to join a day of prayer and fasting to help ensure "peaceful, free and believable elections."

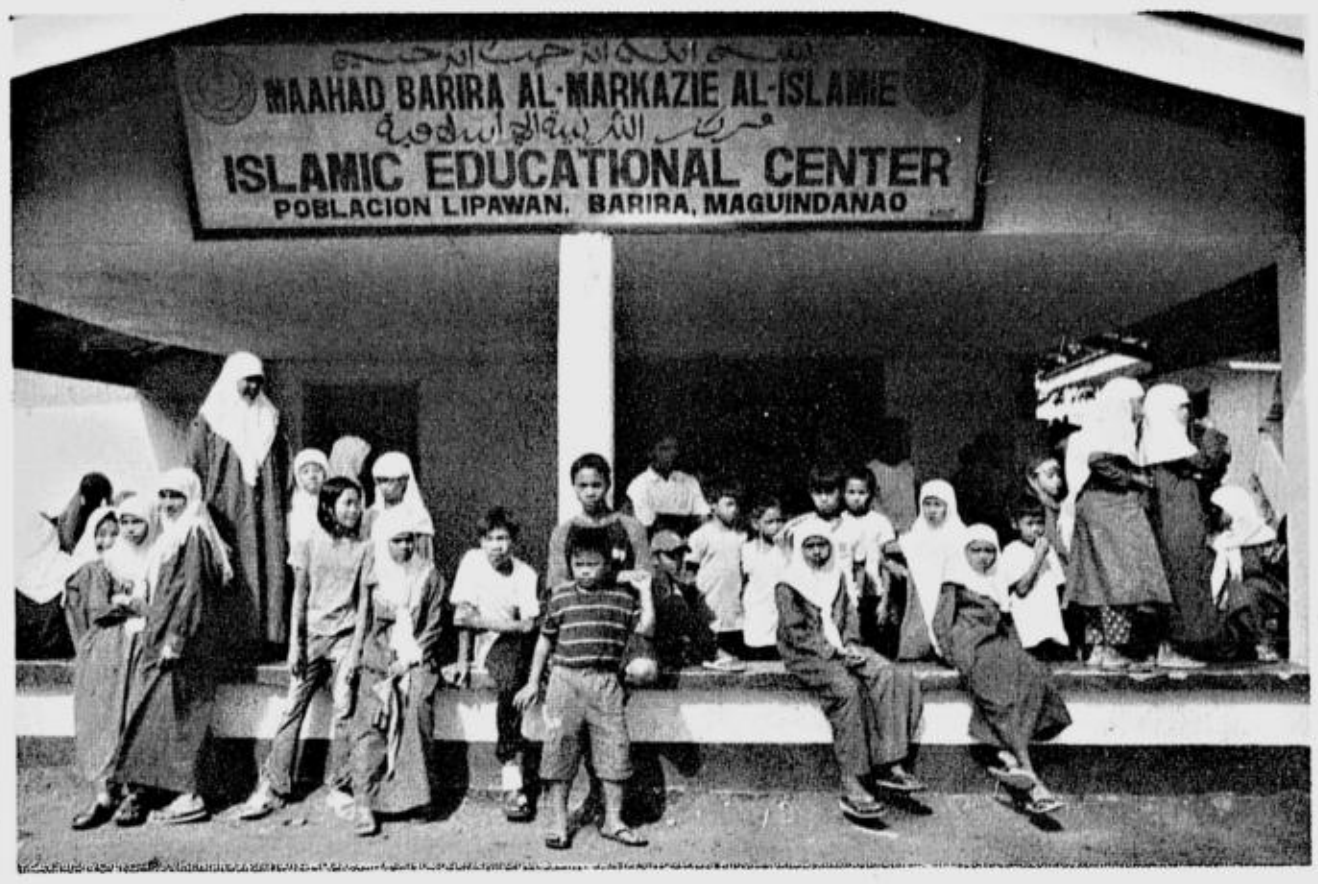
They abstained from eating a full meal from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and took only bread and water for lunch.

In the afternoon, they went to the side of the church for a short program and the torching of fake money and drawings of goons.

"The activity has created awareness among our people on the sanctity of the ballot and the importance of the choices we make in this election to ensure peace, progress and a better life for our people," Navarra said.

He said the country needed leaders to narrow the widening gap between the rich and poor.

Advincula reminded voters to elect leaders who have the experience and commitment to uplift the lives of the Filipino people, especially the poor. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*



A PURPLE DAY PDI PHOTO
Members of a community of war evacuees await the arrival of Teresita Quintos Deles, one of President Macapagal's advisers on the peace process, at a building built to house a school in Camp Abubakar, a former MILF stronghold in Barira, Maguindanao.

Comelec shuffle alarms candidates

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—Local candidates have expressed alarm over the recent move of the Commission on Elections to shuffle its municipal election officers in the province, which, they said, could be a prelude to the rigging of election results.

In a memorandum on April 28, Commissioner Mehol Sadain ordered the transfer of the election officers and field personnel in the towns of Solano, Bayombong, Santa Fe, Dupax del Sur, Diadi and Kayapa.

"This is worrisome because this might be an attempt of some quarters who have close ties with the Comelec to manipulate the (results of the) election in their favor," a candidate said.

Another candidate noted the entry into the province of lawyer Cora Jane Baleros, who was being transferred from Olongapo City to Solano.

Solano has the highest number of registered voters in the province with more than 30,500.

According to Sadain's memorandum, Baleros was being detailed to Solano "due to complaints in Olongapo City."

But lawyer Abraham Johnny Asuncion dismissed allegations that the Comelec was preparing to use fraud to ensure the victory of its supposed favored candidates in the May 10 elections.

He also allayed fears over the re-assignment of election officers, saying that except for Baleros, most of the new assignments had been recommended by his office.

Asuncion said it was Sadain, as commissioner in charge of Ilocos region and Cagayan Valley, who picked Baleros to be assigned in Solano. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gov, 3 others face graft for 'commission'

By Recto I. Vidal
PDI Visayas Bureau

KALIBO, Aklan—Gov. Florencio T. Miraflores and three others are facing graft charges for allegedly receiving P7.7 million in commission from a firm involved in the construction of a jetty port and terminal in Barangay Caticlan, Malay town.

Engineer Iluminado Junia Jr., owner and president of the Jody King Construction and Development Corp., filed last month the complaint at the Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas based in Cebu City.

Junia alleged that Miraflores and three others received P7,780,000 as 20 percent commission for the construction of the Jetty Port Facility and Passenger Terminal in Barangay Caticlan worth P39 million.

Caticlan is a jump-off point to the world famous Boracay Island.

But Junia said after giving the commission, Miraflores failed to pay his firm P22,419,112.96 spent for the project.

Also named respondents in the complaint were Danilo V. Fausto, president of Preferred Ventures Corp., Aklan provincial engineer Victory M. Fernandez and provincial accountant Ma. Victoria A. Salido.

Miraflores, who is running for congressman, denied the charges, saying everything in the project was aboveboard.

"Since this is an election season, these accusations against me are politically-motivated," he said.

In his radio program, Miraflores accused Junia of politically blackmailing him and questioned the timing of the filing of the case.

"The contract project started sometime in 1998 and ended in 2001. That's why I'm surprised why he (Junia) filed the said complaint only recently," Miraflores said.

He said he had not received a copy of the complaint but it found its way to media.

But Junia denied in a radio interview that politics was behind his decision to file a case against the governor.

He said he merely wanted to collect the P22 million owed by the provincial government because his creditors were already hounding him.

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* In selected campuses.

SMC decision boosts Gloria; persecution, howls Erap

From page A1

"There will be no unification if this is what they're doing," said Estrada, the titular head of the opposition. He warned other opposition leaders to watch out as they could be the next target of the alleged persecution.

There have been speculations that the ruling, issued three days before the elections on Monday, may affect Cojuangco's grip on the food and beverage firm, the country's largest company.

20 percent, too

Haydee Yorac, the head of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, has said that the commission would use the same arguments that won the Friday decision in going after the 20 percent bloc of SMC shares still being held by Cojuangco. She said she had no doubt that "we'll get back everything".

The PCGG sequestered the entire bloc of 47 percent SMC shares in 1986, claiming it was acquired with coconut levy funds and had been illegally controlled by Cojuangco and other cronies of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Cojuangco, however, regained control of SMC where he sits as chair and chief executive in a compromise deal with the Estrada administration in 1999. He controls the 15-seat board of directors through the three seats from the 20 percent that he holds and through other stockholders supportive of him.

The government, which already votes the 27 percent shares, failed to unseat Cojuangco in last month's stockholders' meeting of SMC. The board unanimously voted to retain him as chair.

Ruling's release delayed

Estrada said that he was informed by sources in the Sandiganbayan that the ruling had been made weeks ago, but that its release was delayed to prevent SMC lawyers from making any more pleadings.

"It should have come out a long time ago, but they delayed its release so that his [Cojuangco's] hands will be tied and he will not be able to make new pleadings," he said.

In its Friday ruling, the Sandiganbayan ordered that the 27 percent shares owned by 14 holding companies for six Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) companies be "reconveyed to the government" which is to hold it in trust for the country's coconut farmers.

"We hold that the CIIF oil mills, the 14 holding companies, and the CIIF bloc of SMC shares belong to the government," said the anti-graft court.

Most of the coco-levy acquired assets had been invested in six oil mills. The oil mills in turn owned 14 holding companies under the CIIF that owned the 27-percent stake in SMC. The then Cojuangco-controlled United Coconut Planters Bank was the administrator of the CIIF. *(See story, page A19.)*

No reaction

There was no immediate reaction from the SMC or Cojuangco to the decision that is seen to boost the President's chances in Monday's polls in which surveys have placed her with a slight lead over Poe.

"It is a major victory for the government because it is our position that all coconut levy funds are public funds and should be returned to government," said PCGG spokesperson Nick Suarez.

But Cojuangco is expected to appeal the decision.

"It's the decision of the Sandiganbayan. Let the case take its course. Of course, the Supreme Court is always the court of last resort," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

Defensor said that the Sandiganbayan decision was "already a given" considering that this issue had been much discussed before the start of the campaign season.

"I hope that this will not be construed as a political manipulation by the administration because we respect the process of the courts," he said.

Lakas-NPC coalition holds

An NPC leader yesterday said the coalition between the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and the NPC was "firm and holding" despite the Sandiganbayan decision that is seen to be disadvantageous to Cojuangco.

Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy, who heads the NPC, said in a statement that 18 of 19 governors and 48 of 60 congressmen of the NPC were "solidly behind" Ms Macapagal.

He said the decision "was not totally unexpected and does not in any way affect the political coalition" between the country's two largest political parties.

Dy said Cojuangco had "never claimed ownership of the contested SMC shares".

Defensor said Cojuangco's stance allowing the NPC members to make their own decision on whom to support in the polls had helped Ms Macapagal and the K-4 coalition.

"We could've had a big problem if the NPC campaigned for the other side," said Defensor who claimed that the majority of the NPC members supported the President, including Cojuangco's sons, Mark and Charlie, and nephew Tarlac Rep. Gilberto Teodoro.

Victory for farmers, GMA

Farmers groups hailed the Sandiganbayan decision as a victory for coconut farmers.

"All the government SMC shares belong to the coconut farmers. That's our life and blood that was robbed from us by former President Marcos and his cronies," said Rene Cerilla, president of Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon (Ugma-Quezon).

He said the coconut farmers should protect its legal victory by not electing candidates affiliated with "the Cojuangco-coconut levy clique."

A group claiming to represent majority of the 1.2 million small coconut farmers yesterday expressed their support for the President in the wake of the Sandiganbayan decision.

Vicente "Ka Vic" Fabe, chair of the Pambansang Kilusan ng Mga Samahan ng Magsasaka (Pakisama), said that more than 90 percent of the organized small coconut farmers would vote for Ms Macapagal because for the first time the small coconut farm sector was allowed to participate in companies acquired with the use of the coco levy funds.

"After 17 years of struggling to get our rightful share of the coco levy shares, it is only during GMA's administration that we were given a chance to be involved in the board of the UCPB and the CIIF oil mills," Fabe said.

Duped by Erap

Joey Faustino, director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR), said the small coconut farmers "were duped" by ousted President Estrada.

"He said he will return the coco levy shares to the farmers but he ended up forging a deal with Danding Cojuangco," said Faustino.

Fabe and Faustino said that with the ruling, farmers will finally receive the benefits from the coco levy investments.

They said the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) would ask the help of the PCGG and the CIIF to tap not less than P1.2 billion worth of dividend earnings from the SMC shares acquired with the coco levy funds.

Dividend earnings

PCA administrator Danilo Coronacion said the dividend earnings could be more than P1.2 billion as the share earnings of SMC have increased this year.

"We need the funds to increase the yields of coconut farms that are deemed to decline by 25 percent in the next three years. It would initially finance the fertilization process of some 750, 000 hectares of farmlands," said Coronacion.

Pakisama and COIR are part of a broader coalition called Alyansa Akrikultura, a nationwide coalition of farmers and fisherfolk composed of 37 federations and organizations representing more than one million rural families. *With a report from Christine Gaylican and Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

LOBREGAT

ENRILE

COJUANGCO

How coco funds found their way into private hands

THE STORY of how the coconut levy imposed on the country's coconut farmers found their way into private hands has been exhaustively studied by Virgilio David, a retired general who became administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority after the 1986 Edsa people power revolution.

In his booklet, "20 Million Coconut Farmers Are Victims of Levy Racket," published in 1992, David details how interlocking directorships in the Philippine Coconut Authority and the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation or Cocofed, backed by decrees from the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, institutionalized the levy and directed how the funds would be used.

The PCA, created by Presidential Decree 232 on June 30, 1973, was the government agency tasked to develop the coconut industry.

The Cocofed was an organization of coconut landowners and landlords which was then the only recognized coconut farmers' organization and was led by Ma. Clara Lobregat, the late mayor of Zamboanga City.

Two levies

The levy on the coconut industry was actually two levies: the first called the Coconut Investment Fund, or Cocofund, was imposed by Congress which enacted the Cocofund Law, or RA 6260, in 1971.

The second was the Coconut Investment Stabilization Fund (CCSF) under Marcos' Presidential Decree 276, imposing a P15 levy for every 100 kg of copra "for the benefit of coconut farmers."

A Cocofund receipt was issued for the first levy but not for the second.

Marcos later widened the scope of PD 276 in 1974, through the amended PD 414, increasing the levy to P100 per 100 kg of copra.

This amended decree was what apparently gave businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and his associates the means to set up oil mills, buy a bank and the shares of stock from San Miguel Corp.

The levy, which was collected "on first sale," was remitted by end users to the Philippine Coconut Authority.

The PCA governing board was chaired by the then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile. Among the board members were Cojuangco and Lobregat.

Coco bank

In 1975, Marcos issued PD 755 authorizing the PCA to use coconut levy funds from the CCSF to buy a bank for "the benefit of the coconut farmers of the Philippines."

This bank was the First United Bank, later renamed the United Coconut Planters Bank. Enrile became chair of the UCPB whose president and chief executive officer was Cojuangco. Lobregat became a member of the board.

Money from the levy were deposited interest-free in the UCPB. The Commission on Audit was prevented from auditing the money by declaring the funds private.

The Sandiganbayan, in a landmark July 2003 decision, ruled that PD 755 was unconstitutional.

With control of the PCA and the UCPB as depository and administrator of the funds, Cojuangco and his associates bought coconut trading firms, coconut oil mills and export firms.

Holding companies

These acquired assets were not placed in the name of either the PCA or the UCPB but under holding companies under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) owned by six oil mills. These assets were held by the UCPB, the CIIF administrator.

Cojuangco claims he and his associates owned the levy funds because they were the ones who paid the levy. He said the levy was the contribution of 28 coconut oil millers to the country to solve the problems of the copra industry in the 1970s and 1980s.

Sequestered

All these coco levy-acquired assets were sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government in 1986 but control of the UCPB went to Cojuangco when Joseph Estrada became President in 1998. Cojuangco also regained control of San Miguel Corp. and other companies under the CIIF during the Estrada administration.

The government, through the PCGG, filed at least eight cases in the Sandiganbayan involving shares in the name of Cojuangco corporations with the CIIF, the SMC and various businesses allegedly acquired using the levy funds.

On Dec. 14, 2001, the Supreme Court ruled that the coconut levy funds were public funds but left it to the Sandiganbayan to decide who owned the assets acquired with the funds.

Sandigan ruling

Nineteen months later on July 11, 2003, the Sandiganbayan ruled that Cojuangco illegally acquired the UCPB shares with coco levy funds and forfeited his shareholdings in the bank in favor of the government.

The court decision on the UCPB ownership paved the way for the Sandiganbayan's Friday ruling as the bank was the administrator of the 27-percent SMC shares.

As PCGG chair Haydee Yorac confidently stated, it was only a matter of time before the government would "get back everything." *Leah P. Makabenta*

Nation agog as Pacquiao goes for glory today

From page A1

quiao Thursday to wish him luck, has a big stake in the monumental title bout that Marquez had predicted "could be a real war."

The whole nation, seized by Pacquiao fever since his sensational upset of Mexican boxer Marco Antonio Barrera in November, will again be on edge when the boxing celebrity seeks universal confirmation and an official world crown against Marquez, who himself needs this big one to gain ultimate recognition and fame.

Pacquiao also carries his hopeful countrymen on his shoulders during the championship fight.

Headbuts, elbows

Just like the entire Philippines, however, Team Marquez could hardly contain the pressure.

"We hope it will be a clean fight and nothing strange happens," remarked Marquez trainer Nacho Beristain after the weigh-in which his fighter also passed at an equal 125 lbs.

"I will call their attention to Pacquiao's headbutts and elbows during the technical meeting. This will be a difficult fight but we will win," added the balding, mustachioed Beristain, who claimed he has produced 15 world champions, including the legendary Ricardo Lopez, a known nemesis of Filipino aspirants.

For the record, Pacquiao's career has never been blemished by fouls.

In fact, he had refused to hit back when repeatedly roughed up by Agapito Sanchez of the Dominican Republic in 2001 during a defense of the IBF super bantamweight title.

Pacquiao would not try one sly technique even if this had, at times, been necessary, Roach attested.

Automatic 2 pt. deduction

As agreed to in the succeeding rules meeting, any of the two combatants who commits an intentional foul would be slapped an automatic 2-point deduction. The violator could at best be rewarded a draw if the bout is subsequently stopped and he happens to be ahead in the scorecards.

There will be no three-knockdown rule, and the referee is at liberty to toll a standing eight count if he perceives a boxer could've been knocked down if not for the ropes.

Before noontime Friday, Pacquiao was a 3-to-2 favorite to score a knockout, and a double-your-money choice (2-to-1) to win, based on the sports books at the MGM Grand.

There'll be no wild start, Roach had assured the INQUIRER at his Wild Card Boxing Club gym in Hollywood before Team Pacquiao motored to this party and gaming capital on Monday.

He said they would be selective and pick their spot, but quickly added it should not come as a surprise if the fight ends early.

Record

Pacquiao's win-loss record stands at 38-2-1 with 29 knockouts.

Marquez is 42-2 with 33 knockouts.

They clash in the monumental championship that could be a candidate for fight of the year after identical 13 straight victories.

Both Pacquiao and Marquez suffered their last defeats in 1999. They also had to pick themselves up from the mat at least two times before going on to win.

Pacquiao has been conceded the edge in speed and power.

Marquez has, however, vowed to press Pacquiao and break his guard.

Bets started to be placed briskly, and odds fluctuated following the weekend influx of Latino and Filipino rooters.

Big favorite

Pacquiao, who has remained the big favorite, has another advice for his countrymen: don't gamble.

"*Ayaw kong maging sugal ang boxing*," he repeated.

But no less than President Macapagal, a big backer of Pacquiao, has gambled on the RP boxing hero.

A victory by Pacquiao, who has openly endorsed GMA, could help push her to a convincing election victory.

It could not, however, be ascertained if a setback by Pacquiao would have a telling blow on Ms Macapagal's candidacy.

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Coffee has arrived . . .

From page A1

seen the voters' list?

As of yesterday, the computerized voters' list (CVL)—which is supposed to guide voters on which precinct to go—had not been posted in many polling places. This is an indication of the possible chaos which awaits Filipinos tomorrow when they go to the polls to vote.

There are exceptions to the usual anarchy.

In Pasig City Elementary School, the CVL had been posted as early as May 1.

"We're all set. We're ready for the elections tomorrow," declared Principal Iluminada Lerio as she toured the classrooms yesterday.

The school expects to receive the ballot boxes any time today, and the ballots at midnight.

At the Andres Bonifacio Integrated School in Mandaluyong City, the voters' list was posted as early as Thursday. Other voting materials would be picked up at the city hall today, according to Dr. Juanita Valle, school principal.

Comelec officer Ma. Anne Lacuesta said her office would also be distributing voting materials today.

At 2 p.m. yesterday, a group of teachers at the San Juan Elementary School in San Juan, were seen collecting the voters' list from the principal's office. Another group was busy covering tables with Manila Paper and preparing the polling precincts.,

None yet

At the Pinaglabanan Elementary School in San Juan, there was no CVL, the classrooms were closed and there was no teacher in sight, when the INQUIRER checked yesterday morning.

A guard said the teachers were coming in today to prepare the classrooms which will be converted into polling precincts.

At the Xavier School, also in San Juan, janitors were busy fixing the chairs and preparing the classrooms. But the voters' list had not been posted.

At the Juan Sumulong Elementary School in Barangay San Roque, Antipolo City, a janitor said voters came to check their precincts, only to find out that the CVL had not been posted.

Check with local Comelec office

A teacher from the University of Rizal System, also in Antipolo, and a Board of Election Inspector (BEI) were overheard discussing when the classrooms would be cleaned.

Election assistant officer Josephine Cadiz said her Antipolo office is distributing a voter's information sheet, which details the names of all candidates and the positions they are eyeing.

A Comelec official said that if the CVL has not been posted or if voters can't find their names in the list, they should check with their local Comelec office. *With reports from Jamie Alarcon, Michael Jobert Navallo, Donna Potes and Charlie Tordesillas*

The party-list list

By PDI Research

FILIPINOS will vote for the third time for party-list groups tomorrow, but most voters are not aware of the party-list vote.

According to Pulse Asia's pre-electoral national survey in April, less than half of Filipino voters (44 percent) reported awareness of the party-list system, and almost 6 in 10 (56 percent) were unaware of it.

The party-list system is a political innovation introduced by the framers of the 1987 Constitution to enable small political parties and marginalized sectors to be represented in the House of Representatives, which is traditionally dominated by parties with big political machinery.

A party-list group needs at least 2 percent of the total votes cast in the party-list election to get a seat in the House.

In the first party-list election in May 1998, 52 seats were at stake. But only 13 out of the 122 groups that took part in the political exercise were able to meet the 2-percent minimum.

Party-list representatives rose to 20, representing 12 organizations in the last Congress.

Tomorrow, 61 party-list groups are vying for 59 seats.

Among these are the reelectionist Bayan Muna, which currently has three seats, and its allies—Anakpawis, Migrante, Anak ng Bayan, Suara BangsaMoro Party (Suara) and Gabriela Women's Party.

Also up for reelection are the Buhay Hayaang Yumabong (Buhay) and Citizens Battle against Corruption (Cibac), each of which has two seats.

Buhay, reportedly linked with Mike Velarde's El Shaddai movement, was represented by his son, Rene Velarde, in the 12th Congress. Another son of a religious leader, Emmanuel Joel Villanueva, took one of Cibac's two seats.

Emmanuel Villanueva, a son of Jesus is Lord leader and presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva, won the right to represent his group after months of legal wrangling. The Commission on Elections had disqualified Cibac on the basis of its religious affiliation.

The other party-list reelectionists are Butil, Akbayan, Aba, Abanse! Pinay, Amin, Apec, Cocofed, Partido ng Manggagawa and Sanlakas.

Also in the running are the People's Movement against Poverty (PMAP), which is associated with ousted President Joseph Estrada, and Bigkis Pinoy, which ran in the last elections but failed to get a seat.

Bigkis Pinoy is believed to be a front organization of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband and his friends, according to Cibac Rep. Kim Bernard-Lokin.

The other party-list group reported to be affiliated with an umbrella organization supporting Ms Macapagal is the Pinoy Overseas Party.

The following is the complete list of party-list candidates:

I. SECTORAL PARTY

Indigenous cultural communities
1. Assalam Bangsamoro People's Party (Assalam)
2. Ang Laban ng Indiginong Filipino (Alif)
3. Partido Katutubong Pilipino (Katutubo)
4. Suara Bangsamoro (Suara)

Elderly
1. Aging Pilipino Organization Inc. (Aging Pinoy)
2. Senior Citizens/Elderly (Elderly)

Fisherfolk
Bahandi sa Kaumahan ug Kadagatan (Bahandi)

Handicapped
Alyansa ng may Kapansanang Pinoy (Akapin)

Labor
1. Partido ng Manggagawa (PM)
2. Trade Union Congress Party (TUCP)

Overseas workers
1. Organisasyon ng Manggagawang Mag-aangat sa Republika (Ommar)
2. Gabay ng Manggagawang Filipino Party (Gabay-OFW)
3. Maritime Party (Maritime)
4. Migrante Sectoral Party of Overseas Filipinos and their Families (Migrante)
5. Pinoy Overseas Party (POP)
6. Visayan Association of the Philippines (Bisa)

Peasants
1. Butil Farmers Party (Butil)
2. National Federation of Small Coconut Farmers Organization, Inc. (SCFO)
3. Novelty Entrepreneurship and Livelihood for Food Inc. (Neliffi)
4. Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Inc. (Cocofed)
5. Visayas Farmers Party (Agrifil)

Professionals
Alliance of Volunteer Educators (Ave)

Urban poor
1. Alagad (Alagad)
2. Ka Isang Loob para sa Marangal na Paninirahan (Kaloob)
3. People's Movement against Poverty (PMAP)

Veterans
Veterans Freedom Party (VFP)

Women
1. Abanse! Pinay
2. Gabriela Women's Party (Gabriela)

Youth
Ang Nagkakaisang Kabataan para sa Sambayanan (Anak ng Bayan)

II. POLITICAL PARTY

1. Akbayan! Citizens Action Party (Akbayan)
2. Aksyon Sambayanan (Aksa)
3. Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (Anad)
4. Anakpawis (AP)
5. Bayan Muna (Bayan Muna)
6. Bigkis Pinoy Movement (Bigkis)
7. Buhay Hayaang Yumabong (Buhay)
8. Partido Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa (Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa)
9. Lapiang Manggagawa (LM)

III. ORGANIZATION/COALITION

1. Alyansang Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka, Manggagawang Bukid at Mangingisda and Adhikain at Kilusan ng Ordinaryong Tao Coalition (Aba-Ako)
2. Advocates and Adherents of Social Justice for School Teachers and Allied Workers (AASJS)
3. Farmers and Fisherfolk Aggrupation of the Philippines Inc. (FFAPI)
4. Ahonbayan (Ahonbayan)
5. Alab Katipunan (AK)
6. Alyansa ng Sambayanan para sa Pagbabago (Asap)
7. Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec)
8. An Waray (An Waray)
9. Anak Mindanao (Amin)
10. Bagong Tao Movement (BTM)
11. Barangay Association for National Advancement and Transparency (Banat)
12. Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac)
13. Cooperative Natcco Network Party (Coop-Natcco)
14. Confederation of Grains Retailers Association of the Philippines (Grecon)
15. Mindanao Federation of Small Coconut Farmers Organization Inc. (MSCFO)
16. Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP)
17. Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organization and Alliance of Concerned Transport Operations (PCDO-Acto)
18. Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI)
19. The True Marcos Loyalist (for God, Country and People) (Marcos Loyalist)
20. Sagip-Kapwa Foundation Inc. (Sagip-Kapwa)
21. Samahan ng mga Mangangalakal para sa Ikauunlad ng Lokal na Ekonomiya (SMILE)
22. Sanlakas (Sanlakas)
23. Seaman's Party Inc. (SPI)

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Mothers' Day: This lady ...

From page A1

mess things up or to make mistakes. You just do the best you can, and I guess it's the same with most moms. You just figure out how to do it, and God gives you the strength."

Of the 26, six in the brood are the biological children of Terrie and Charlie "Chaz" Yandall. The rest are children who had no place to go and had turned up at the Yandall home—malnourished, severely handicapped, or emotionally damaged—and have stayed.

From San Diego to Bacolod

The Yandalls came to the country in 1991 from San Diego, California, to start a children's ministry in Bacolod.

About 200 members from their church, Horizon Christian Fellowship, earlier visited Manila and Bacolod to help different communities for their "Festival of Life" program. Upon returning to San Diego, their pastor shared a list of needs in the country, including a ministry for children.

Terrie said that when she first heard about it, "I just knew that we were going to come here." Her initial reaction resembled Moses' hesitation to God's call rather than Mary's immediate obedience.

"I started arguing with God," she recalls. "I don't remember anything else about the rest of that sermon because I basically sat there going, 'Yeah right! And what's my husband going to say about that? He's not going to like this!"

Chaz had a full time job that he loved, apart from being assistant pastor in their church. A year later, the Yandalls returned to the country.

The church eventually pulled out from the children's ministry, but the couple, unable to turn their backs on the children, decided to go independent five years ago.

They continue to get support from Youth Development International, a non-profit organization that caters to young people suffering from physical, emotional, spiritual and social problems. Friends also send support from time to time.

Children started coming

"We never went out looking for children. We never have and we never will," says Terrie.

Unsure of how to go about their ministry and wary of being associated with unsavory elements who "shopped" for children, the Yandalls prayed: "God bring us the children you want us to help."

Even without a sign on their door, the children started coming in.

Khalil, the first child who knocked on their door, was severely malnourished that he spent four months in hospital before he was stable enough to leave. Doctors predicted a bleak future for the 3-year-old boy, that he would be severely brain damaged, would most likely be deaf, be unable to go to school, and have health problems all his life.

'Temporarily permanent'

Originally, the couple's goal was to see the children through their initial problems and then get them back to their folks.

And if there were any who needed new homes, they would be referred to an adoption agency.

The arrangements were only temporary, but nobody came back for the children later. The Yandalls tried tracking them down, but eventually, says Terrie, "all our 'temporary' children became 'temporarily permanent.'"

Their church's decision to pull out of the children's ministry brought the couple to a critical crossroads. They were given 30 days to return to San Diego, meaning a shutdown of the ministry.

After much prayer, fasting and talking, the couple decided to trust providence.

"God brought every one of these children to us and He has provided for everything we've ever needed no matter what happened," says Terrie.

The couple decided they would stay as long as they could and "raise these children to the best of our ability as if they were our own, even if we couldn't legally adopt them. Even though there's a chance that the government could take them away or kick us out because we are foreigners."

Born from the heart

Thus, 20 children "born from the heart" were added to the Yandall's six biological kids.

From the oldest (20) to the youngest (5), the Yandall children are Velita, Michael, Jenika, Ramon, Lina, Khalil , Riza, Angie, Katrin, Jennifer, Samuel, Metala, Carmela, Shane Marie, Algene, Leonah, Jingle, Tirzah, Efraim, Riche, Rovell, Crizza, Gabriel, Jade, Yvonne, and Mary Grace.

Like a pat on the back for a good decision, a new law that allowed foreigners living in the Philippines to adopt Filipino kids was passed soon afterwards. And while the family eagerly awaits the adoption papers to be processed, the children have started using "Yandall" as their surname.

FAMILY portrait of Terrie and Chaz Yandall with their healthy brood of 26, 6 biological and the 20 others they call "born from the heart," ranging in ages from 5 to 20.

TLC, food, and God

Terrie is proud of Khalil, now 15, with good communication skills although he is 80 percent deaf, and is taller than the average Filipino despite a doctor's prediction years ago that he would never achieve normal height.

"He has an incredible memory and can draw and paint very well," says Terrie. "It's amazing what a little love, food, and God could do. Because that's all it really is."

Terrie and Chaz encourage their children to be proactive in the face of challenges.

One child, 11-year-old Samuel, has all three forms of dyslexia—visual, hearing and speech—apart from being asthmatic. Terrie says some days are good, some days are bad.

"We just try to emphasize to the kids that they're different in that area," she says. "If you're weak in this area, do your best at it. And then find the things that you're good at that you love to do, and work on those because for some reason God wanted you saved."

Saving lives

"I've been asked why would I want to waste my life taking care of 'dirty, brown kids', because that's what most of them call the children," says Terrie.

"I don't know why God chose me and my husband to do this. And I honestly don't think that unless you're called to do something like this that you should try it," she says.

"Maybe in the eyes of some people, I am wasting time," adds Terrie. "But apparently not in God's eyes because God has brought me here. He has brought these children here and has blessed us tremendously. I get much more out of these kids than the kids get out of me. I've grown so much more as a person than I ever could have without my kids.

Undecided to decide

From page A1

the capital.

The undecided in the Visayas comprise 16 percent and those in Mindanao 14 percent, Mangahas said.

The survey, sponsored by the Manila Standard, ABS-CBN and Polistrat International, involved face-to-face interviews with 2,000 respondents from May 1 to 4, SWS said. It had an error margin of 2 percent.

Mangahas gave an insight into how long it takes some Filipinos to make up their minds.

In the 1998 presidential election won by Joseph Estrada, "one out of every five voters decided on whom to vote for president only the day of the election itself, according to an ABS-CBN exit poll," Mangahas noted.

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson placed third in the overall voter preference, pulling in 11 percent, Alyansa ng Pag-Asa standard-bearer Raul Roco was in fourth with 6 percent and Eddie Villanueva of Bangon Pilipinas was at the tailend with 4 percent.

Eleven percent of Macapagal voters and 14 percent of FPJ voters are uncommitted or soft, he said.

Also deemed soft are 19 percent of Lacson voters, 16 percent of Roco voters and 14 percent of Villanueva voters.

"Soft voters are concentrated in Luzon, which has 63 percent of the total," Mangahas said.

Luzon north of Manila has the largest chunk of uncommitted voters with 30 percent, while Luzon south of Manila has 23 percent.

In Metro Manila, 9 percent of voters are deemed soft.

The Visayas has 15 percent soft voters and Mindanao 22 percent.

Unusual but good sign

Political scientist Felipe "Pepe" Miranda, research director of another polling agency, Pulse Asia, said the large number of undecided voters was unusual but also "a good sign."

"People are taking more time to consider who they are voting for," he told the INQUIRER.

Miranda said this augured well for democracy as it implied "a more calculating set of voters, including the poor."

Miranda estimated half of the undecided might not go to the polls at all, or if they did, would simply leave blank their choice for President, though they might vote for senators or other local officials.

"They represent the undecided who are so disillusioned with how things are and with the present crop of candidates."

A poll conducted April 26-29 by Pulse Asia showed the President enjoying a six-point lead over Poe, 37 percent to 31 percent.

In the Pulse Asia survey, 16 percent of Filipinos said either there was a big or very big chance they would still change their candidate before Election Day, or that they were undecided.

"Part of the reason people are much more careful is their experience with former President Joseph Estrada," Miranda said, citing the 1998 elections when, he said, people "went overboard" mainly because of a candidate's popularity.

Initial impulse

He added: "After listening to the candidates, they are now thinking that their original choice may be less deserving. People are getting over their initial impulse. They are seriously asking if a certain candidate *'ay marunong magpatakbo ng gobyerno'* (knows how to run a government)."

Also, more information on Ms Macapagal's alleged use of government funds for electoral purposes may have made some reconsider her as their choice, while those initially for Poe may now have doubts about his competence, he said.

Cheating at the polls

The SWS survey also addressed a major concern of both voters and candidates—cheating at the polls.

"The SWS survey shows that more of the public would assume the election was fair in case FPJ wins than in case GMA wins," Mangahas said.

To the question of whether a Macapagal victory would come about fairly or not, 57 percent said yes, but 17 percent said it would happen through cheating. Twenty-five percent said they didn't know.

"As to whether an FPJ victory would come about fairly or not, 72 percent said yes, only 5 percent said it would happen through cheating," Mangahas said. The I don't knows comprise 25 percent.

As to who voters think will win on May 10, 42 percent picked Ms Macapagal while 36 percent said it would be Poe.

Six percent said it would be Lacson, two percent said it would be Roco while another two percent picked Villanueva.

Senate: 6-6 deadlock

The fight for 12 Senate seats could end up in a 6-6 deadlock or 8-4 for the administration's K-4 party, according to the survey.

According to SWS, the Senate race is now led by Manuel "Mar" Roxas (K4) and Bong Revilla (K4), at 42%.

Trailing them are Aquilino Pimentel (KNP) and Miriam Defensor-Santiago (K4) 32%, Juan Ponce Enrile (KNP) 31%, Lito Lapid (K4), Jamby Madrigal (KNP) and Jinggoy Estrada (KNP) 30%, Richard Gordon (K4) 29%, Alfredo Lim (KNP) and Pia Cayetano (K4) 27%, and 12. Rodolfo Biazon (K4) 26%.

Ernesto Maceda (KNP), Robert Barbers (K4), and John Osmeña (K4), all at 25%, are statistically tied for 12th place.

The difference from the April survey is that Biazon is now in the top 12, while Maceda and Osmeña are now out, of the first 12.

The five K4s and four KNPs with 29% or more are statistically safe, while the four K4s and two KNPs with scores from 25% to 27% are at least tied for the last winning slot, SWS said.

"While the literal score from the first 12 is 7-5, the numbers would allow up to 8 K4s, or up to 6 KNPs, to be winners," it said.

Final push

In a final campaign push, Lakas officials have launched "Oplan Landslide" involving the party's regional and provincial leaders and aimed at capturing the undecided voters and, if possible, opposition supporters in their areas.

In any case, whoever wins will need more than just a prayer to solve the country's monstrous problems: total debt in the trillions, a yawning budget deficit of 197.8 billion pesos, a jobless rate of 11 percent, plunging foreign investments, widespread poverty that grips 40 million Filipinos, Muslim separatist rebellions, a resurgent communist insurgency and threats from Islamic terror groups. *With reports from Cynthia Balana*

Guingona told: Be ready to take over, just in case

From page A1

tions (HOPE), as well as the National Movement for Free Elections and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting.

Patriots will open hotlines and run an anti-fraud monitoring center starting tomorrow at the University of Sto. Tomas in Manila to receive calls and "document" untoward incidents and "anomalies" at the precincts and canvassing sites.

The hotlines are 924-0205, 924-2511, 412-3174, 406-1601, 731-3101 local 4058, and 0916-4880145 and 0916-9898370.

Callers should be prepared to give their names and addresses and, if necessary, submit sworn statements so that complaints "can stand in court," Dizon said.

He said the anti-fraud monitoring center would send "quick-reaction teams" equipped with video cameras to verify the complaints on-site or relay an initial report to the media.

Patriots is also sending out its own invited team of foreign observers tomorrow to balance the delegation sent by the US government, Dizon said.

He said the team—including clergymen and leaders of people's organizations from Germany, Australia, Japan and the United States—would come up with its own report assessing the conduct of the elections.

Soldiers' duty

In a statement, Ms Macapagal warned military personnel against meddling in the elections and promised swift punishment for those who would do so.

She said she had ordered Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya to "enforce absolute non-partisanship in the [AFP] and to summarily punish any active military personnel engaged in partisan activities."

Ms Macapagal reminded soldiers of their duty to protect the sanctity of the ballot, the safety of voters and the well-being of teachers and polling aides.

"I expect this mandate to be fulfilled with professionalism and efficiency," she said.

She assured leaders of the Catholic Church—who had earlier launched "Operation Tutok" to fight an alleged plan for "systematic, massive and intense" electoral fraud—that she was supportive of their campaign for peaceful, honest and credible elections.

"If there are verifiable allegations of fraud, we shall be the first, at the behest of the [Commission on Elections] to investigate these and swiftly immobilize and punish the culprits," the President said.

But she added that Church leaders should be "wary of dignifying unverifiable allegations of fraud, for we may end up being exploited by the hidden agenda of shadowy forces."

Operation Tutok was launched on Friday by the HOPE coalition, which is led by Rosales, Vidal and Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla.

The coalition said two groups of military officers had earlier sought the Church leaders' help in derailing the alleged election fraud being planned by the AFP.

Cause for alarm

Ex-President Ramos also called for clean and honest elections but said he was "alarmed" by reports that certain active military officers had complained that the AFP was under orders to facilitate cheating in the elections.

He said military personnel with complaints should "go through the chain of command instead of going to the media or the Church."

Ramos said he could still mobilize the private sector to protest massive cheating even if he had already retired from public life.

He lamented the exchange of accusations on "plots and counterplots" of cheating by the administration and the opposition.

"The culprits behind the plots we are hearing now are unnamed. So let us not panic because these are all mere rumors," he said.

"Let us have faith that the AFP, the [Philippine National Police] and all our law enforcement agencies and auxiliaries at the barangay level are ready to enforce the law and the integrity of the ballot. As a veteran soldier, I know the professional loyalty and the democratic traditions that have been ingrained in the history of our uniformed services," Ramos said, reading from a prepared statement.

But Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. said it was the administration, and not the opposition, that was capable of electoral fraud and destabilization.

"When was the opposition able to cheat?" Poe said in an interview over dzRH, hours before he capped his presidential campaign with a *miting de avance* on Ayala avenue in Makati City.

According to Poe, only the administration has the resources for fraud.

"It would be funny if we were the ones who would cheat," he said.

No time for probe

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos downplayed the reports of planned massive cheating and said the poll body did not have the time to investigate the matter.

"They should tell us who these people are... Don't tell me that we have to investigate everything that is said... What would happen to us?" Abalos said when asked if he would order a probe.

"We won't be able to do anything else because, for all you know, they might be [floating these ideas] just so we won't be able to do our jobs," he added in Filipino.

On Friday, Alyansa ng Pag-asa senatorial candidate Mel "Batas" Mauricio asked Abalos to investigate five envelopes, Comelec seals and statements of votes that had been supplied by an unidentified party.

Yesterday, Abalos said the election paraphernalia were "fakes."

Abalos appeared exasperated by insinuations that the Comelec was bent on helping the administration in the planned cheating.

Asked how preparations were going, he said there were no problems except for ballots that were delivered to other districts in Metro Manila.

But he said there would be no "shortage" of ballots considering that voter turnout in Metro Manila had never reached 100 percent.

"The biggest turnout in Metro Manila was 68 percent," he said.

Asked what was now the Comelec's primary concern, Abalos said it was the critics.

"I hope they stop," he said. "I just want them to know, and I want to emphasize, the independence of the Comelec, and I want to emphasize further that the Comelec is a commission for the people, for our country, and not a commission for anybody."

Irregularities

But at the Sulo forum, more reports of alleged poll irregularities were aired.

The party-list group Migrante International complained about logistical problems, disenfranchisement, and "disinformation" marking the conduct of the recent absentee voting involving overseas Filipino workers.

Migrante nominee Connie Bragas Regalado said the group's poll watchers in Hong Kong had documented instances of election inspectors telling voters that they did not have to vote for any party-list group.

In Saudi Arabia and again in Hong Kong, she said, some voters were made to line up for long hours, only to find out later that their names were not listed even though they had registered.

In Japan, some ballots supposed to be sent by mail never reached the intended voters, Regalado added. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Martin P. Marfil, Christine O. Avendaño and Blanche Rivera*

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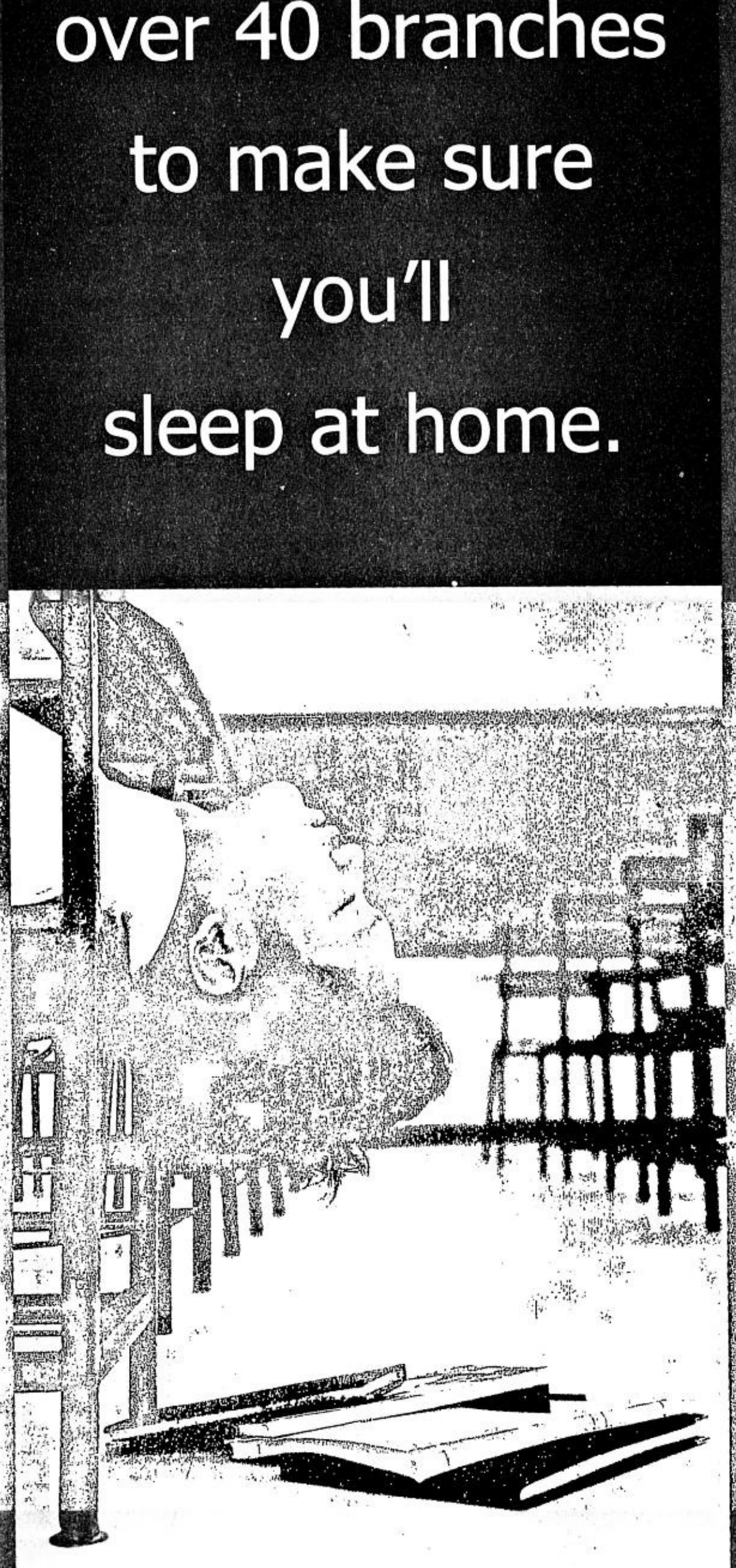

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'Bong' votes are mine, says Revilla

By Tarra Quismundo

ACTOR-TURNED-POLITICIAN Ramon Revilla Jr. yesterday insisted that all votes for "Bong" should be counted in his favor.

"The Supreme Court already decided to give what's due me, and votes for 'Bong' would be counted for 'Bong Revilla'," the K-4 senatorial candidate told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The former Cavite governor was reacting to a statement of Manila 3rd District Election Officer Calixtro Ramos, who disclosed that he had yet to receive any official instructions on how to treat votes for a senatorial candidate written as "Bong."

Ramos said he could not rely on mere newspaper accounts of the Supreme Court or the Commission on Elections (Comelec) giving Revilla credit for "Bong" votes.

Yesterday, copies of a Comelec resolution purportedly signed by Chair Benjamin Abalos stated that the Supreme Court had upheld a Comelec decision that allowed Revilla to change his alias from "Kap" to "Bong" in his Certificate of Candidacy.

His fellow senatorial candidate Olivia "Bong" Coo of Alyansa ng Pag-Asa, who entered "Bong Coo" as her nickname, had questioned the Comelec resolution.

The high court dismissed Coo's petition, citing that Revilla had been using "Bong" as his nickname when he ran for office in Cavite in 1995, 1998, and 2001.

Thus, Abalos pointed out, when the votes are tallied on Monday, "Bong" votes should be counted for Revilla.

Ramos, however said that he had yet to receive a copy of the latest Comelec resolution.

Disqualifications and rumors fly high on elections eve

REPORTS and rumors of disqualifications flew high and fast as the campaign period for Monday's elections drew to a close yesterday.

In Pasig City, there was much talk that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) had disqualified mayoral candidate Vicente "Enteng" Eusebio from the race.

The reports found their way to the local Comelec office, where employees talked about Eusebio's supposed disqualification.

Rumors had it that Eusebio had been disqualified for early campaigning, vote-buying and faking a political survey. Early this year, Rep. Henry Lanot, who is running for mayor, filed a disqualification case against Eusebio.

The reports even reached the Comelec national headquarters in Intramuros, Manila.

But a check by the INQUIRER showed that the talk was more fiction than fact.

A Comelec official who requested anonymity told the INQUIRER that if there were such a decision, her office would immediately know about it.

In Manila, the camp of 3rd District congressional aspirant Miles Roces circulated a copy of a supposed Comelec resolution that declared incumbent Rep. Harry Angpin as having been disqualified from running.

The resolution was supposedly dated April 30, 2004. But the date was handwritten.

However, Angpin has been claiming that he had been able to stop the promulgation of his disqualification case set for May 4 by voluntarily withdrawing his candidacy.

He said that his move allowed his wife, Maria Zenaida, to run as his substitute.

The supposed Comelec resolution being circulated by Roces bore the signatures of Commissioners Rufino Javier, Resurreccion Borra and Virgilio Garcillano.

A check by the INQUIRER yesterday with the 3rd District Comelec office, however, showed that there was no order stating that Angpin had been disqualified and thus barred from getting votes.

Without such an order, votes for Angpin would still be counted and even credited to his wife at the end of voting on Monday, a staff member at the Comelec office said. *Luige del Puerto and Leila Salaverria*

Lakas campaign man shot dead

Incident puts Malabon under Comelec control

By Tina Santos

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) yesterday placed Malabon City under its control following the killing yesterday morning of the campaign manager of one of the city's mayoral candidates.

Five men gunned down Hernando Dabalus, 60, secretary and political strategist of acting Mayor Mark Allan Jay Yambao, inside the campaign headquarters of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats in Malabon.

Dabalus, a former municipal manager and secretary of the city council, died on the spot from two gunshot wounds in the head, police said.

Meanwhile, Conrado Meneses, 59, security management staff and resident of Arellano Street, San Agustin, Malabon City, was wounded in the attack. He was treated at the Manila Central University (MCU) Hospital for gunshot wounds in the buttocks.

Initial investigation showed that at about 6:50 a.m. five men came looking for Dabalus at the Lakas-CMD headquarters on Rizal Avenue, Interior San Agustin.

Meneses confronted the suspects, one of whom drew a gun and shot Meneses.

Other members of the campaign staff were then told to lie face down on the floor.

Four suspects proceeded to the office where Dabalus was sleeping. One served as a lookout.

Witnesses told the police that several gunshots rang out before the suspects escaped.

Authorities recovered three empty shells and a deformed slug from caliber .45 pistols at the crime scene.

Yambao condemned the killing even as he immediately asked to place the the city under Comelec control to prevent further violence.

ONE FINAL BLAST
Supporters of various candidates in the local elections in Manila go all out with their campaign, turning posters into buntings, as the campaign period draws to a close today. AFP/ROMEO GACAD

METROBRIEFS

Suspects released

THREE of the six suspects in the killing of two bus passengers on Thursday night were released yesterday, police said. Bus driver Urnos Arellano, 43, of Quezon City, bus conductor Mario Cadiz, 23, of Bustos, Bulacan, and bus mechanic Roy Abrasaldo, 32, were allowed to go home as the police conduct a preliminary investigation. "We conducted a background check, and so far, we can not find anything to link the bus employees to the armed suspects," said Sr. Supt. Ericson Velasquez, city police chief. On Saturday, the police filed charges of robbery with homicide and of violating the Omnibus Election Code against Petronillo Edraga, 21, of Letre, Malabon, Bernard Plaza, 23, and Bobby Ibanez, 29, both from Malabon. They reportedly killed architect Elmer Passion and engineer Angelito Canonicato during a bus robbery on Thursday night in Mandaluyong City. *Luige del Puerto*

Abducted bet

THERE IS still no word from the abducted mayoral candidate of Baras, Rizal. "There is still no word from him or from his abductors. They have not contacted the family," said Sr. Insp. Ricardo Morada, town police chief. "I just talked to his father today. He said his abductors have not called," the official said, adding the suspects' getaway car has not been sighted in town, or in neighboring Tanay, Rizal, where it was last seen heading. Four men, carrying M16 rifles, took Ulysses R. Olano, the official candidate of the Liberal Party, while he was traveling on board a Ford Ranger in a remote area in town at 7 p.m. Thursday night. Olano, an engineer, is challenging incumbent Mayor Dindo Garciano. *Luige del Puerto*

Liban still in running

FORMER solon Dante Liban, who is running in the May 10 elections to regain his old congressional seat in the 2nd district of Quezon City, has branded as baseless in fact and in law the disqualification case filed by a certain Heber G. Bartolome. Liban said the case was intended merely to harass and vex the congressional aspirant. According to Liban, Bartolome had no personality or business in filing a disqualification case against him because he was not a candidate. Liban added that the case was filed beyond the period prescribed by law.

Inay Pô: Mother, community leader and Ulirang Ina

THIS Mother's Day, the Macalintal Clan rejoices as Ka Epay, receives the "Ulirang Ina Award" from the National Mother's Day and Father's Day Foundation, in recognition of her exceptional qualities as a mother, wife, parishioner, citizen and as a living model of society.

Mrs. Felipa Adajar-Macalintal, fondly referred to as "Ka Epay," or "Inay Pô," was born on March 15, 1918, to Eustaquio Adajar and Eufemia Marasigan, both farmers of Alitagtag, Batangas.

She attended the Alitagtag Elementary School and, at 17, married Nazario Ilagan Macalintal, a local farmer-turned-merchant, on Sept. 23, 1935.

Through thick and thin, they founded a family of 12 children, raised in the Catholic faith, and educated until they have earned their University degrees and built their own respective careers, and founded their own families.

At the onset, Ka Epay and Ka Borio provided for their family by the trade of mosquito nets—*kulambo*—and clothes in Batangas and even as far as Ilocos.

At the birth of their first baby, Ka Epay ventured into embroidery work, making *bagoong*, and selling home-grown vegetables.

After the war, Ka Epay engaged in making souvenir items out of woven abaca. The home-based industry flourished as she employed friends and neighbors in the production of mosquito nets.

The business eventually diversified into the production of shirts, pants and other garments.

In time, Ka Borio began supplying her with raw textile from Divisoria. The finished goods would then be transported back to Manila and sold in the Azcarraga Textile Market then in the Ilaya Supermarket and the Manila Textile Market.

Ka Epay took care of all her children as they went to school in Alitagtag and even as one-by-one they went to Manila to pursue degrees in the university.

All twelve have become professionals, from one lawyer to a handful of medical doctors, businessmen, politicians and engineers.

They have all married well, carrying with them the precious teachings of Inay Pô.

Concerned for the community, Ka Epay co-founded the Alitagtag High School, the Alitagtag College. She and Ka Borio also helped pioneer the Alitagtag Rural Bank that provides loans for the business and personal needs of the townfolk.

On Inay Pô's 85th birthday, the grandchildren staged "A Day in the Life of Inay Pô," a short comedy that reenacted her life—a life that has served as inspiration to the entire family.

Truly, an ideal Mother. Inay Pô, Ulirang Ina.

KA EPAY

Toilets await voters in Payatas

By Mel Lawrence de Guzman

WHILE some will cast their votes in air-conditioned classrooms of private schools or in less cozy classrooms of public schools, others will have to settle casting their votes comfortably in, of all places, comfort rooms.

Such will be the case in Payatas A Elementary School (PAES), where one of the school buildings is under construction and rooms for election precincts are lacking.

"We have no other option but to use our two comfort rooms to accommodate all the registered voters," said Efrenita Miranda, a teacher and chair of an election precinct in PAES.

Come election time, PAES expects 20,605 registered voters in its 103 precincts clustered into the school's 21 rooms. Add to those rooms the two comfort rooms, the school's lobby, library, clinic and guidance counselor's office that are not spared just to have a place for all the voters.

At any given time, eight to 10 voters can fit in the comfort room, said Miranda, who is also the one assigned to prepare the place.

To make the toilets comfortable enough for the voters on election day, the cubicles will be temporarily covered, Miranda said.

"The comfort rooms are being used by the teachers, and not by our students," she added, stressing that the voters assigned to the makeshift precincts don't have to worry about cleanliness.

Taguig gets cityhood in recount

TAGUIG residents and officials are jubilant over the outcome of the Commission on Elections' recount of the votes cast in the 1998 cityhood plebiscite with the "Yes" votes winning by a 2,879 margin over the "No" votes.

The recount pushed through after six years after the Supreme Court ended the moves of Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano seeking to block Taguig's cityhood.

An unofficial final count based on actual revision conducted by the Commission on Elections showed that 16,004 voted for the cityhood of Taguig, while 13,125 voted not in favor.

A total of 869 ballot boxes were opened in the recount. Several ballot boxes were found to be spoiled due to water damage.

Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga said he was thankful that the real outcome of the 1998 cityhood plebiscite had prevailed.

"Taguig is now getting due recognition that is why the local government and our people are working doubly hard to make Taguig the premier development area in Metro Manila," he said.

Confusion mars distribution of poll materials

By Melodie Tumambing, Christina Rondario, Mel Llawrence de Guzman and Tina Santos

CONFUSION marked the distribution of election paraphernalia in Quezon City with hundreds of teachers trooping to the Treasurer's Office yesterday.

Each district was set to claim ballot boxes, official ballots, voters' lists and other paraphernalia according to a strict schedule. However, toward the afternoon, the number of waiting teachers rose.

"It was orderly until the number of people increased. Those from District 4 are the ones scheduled now but those from other districts are not yet finished," Danilo Santiago, a staff members at the Treasurer's Office, said.

The long wait, hot weather and lack of orderly lines added to the problems of the teachers and city hall officials.

"We've been waiting since 1 p.m. but they didn't tell us that we needed to photocopy our appointment document before we could get a gatepass and fall in line. Now, its so chaotic," Milagros Yap, a teacher from Quezon City High School, complained.

Santiago, however, said the teachers were aware of the requirements and were even asked to bring a photocopy of their appointments.

The official voters list has not yet been posted in some schools, such as in Matandang Balara Elementary School, Balara Elementary School and Aguinaldo Elementary School as of 12 p.m. yesterday.

Matandang Balara has the biggest number of registered voters in the city's third district with 12,209 voters expected on Monday.

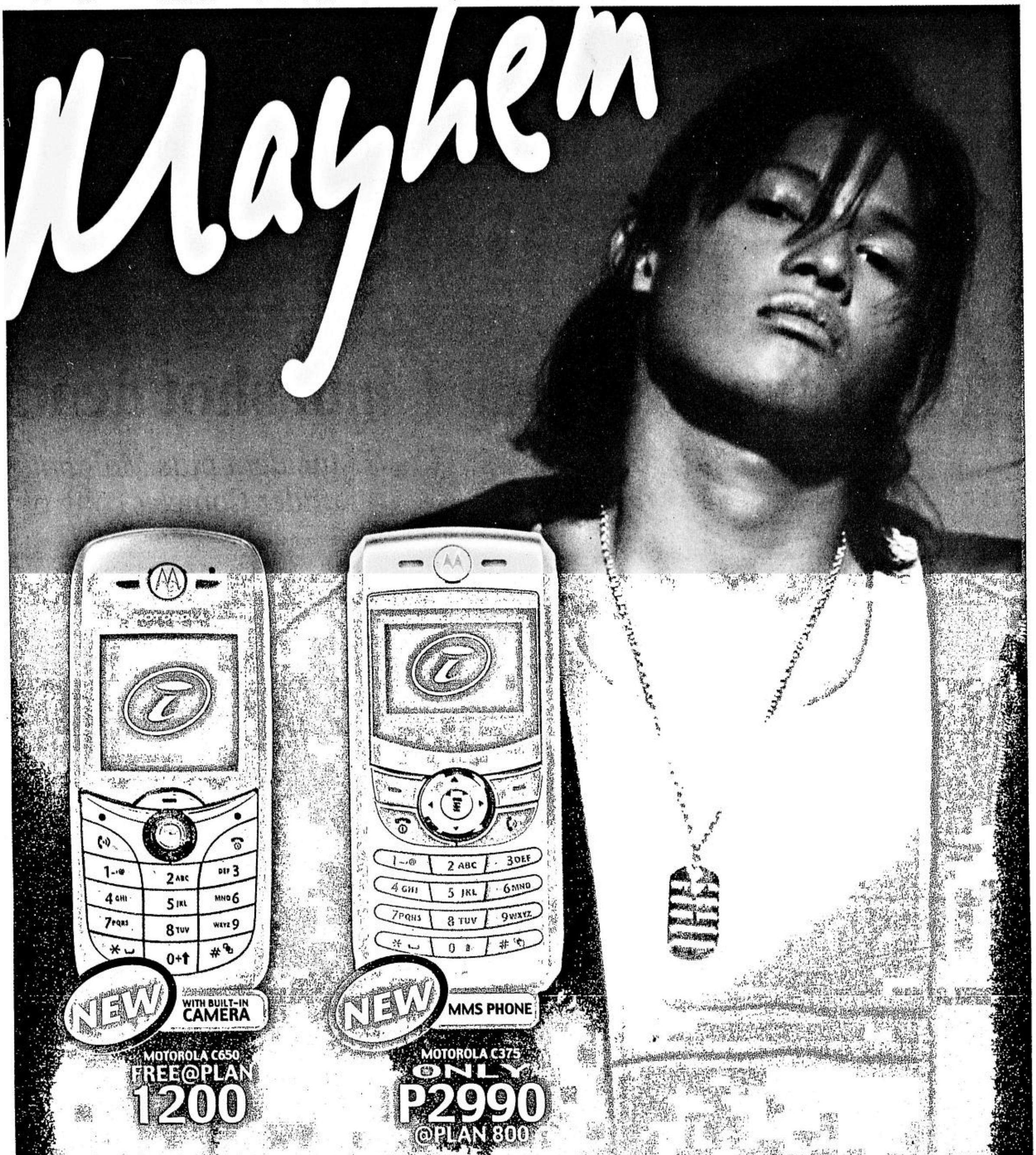
Escarlita Banaong, principal of Balara Elementary School, said the Board of Election Inspectors already got the voters list Friday night but still could not post it because they had yet to get the election materials from the Comelec.

Meanwhile, some school officials have taken the initiative to combat fraud starting at the school level.

At Batasan Elementary School, for example, election inspectors will be asked to take down the minutes of the election proper in their respective places.

The minutes will include the time of the start of the casting of ballots, the end of the casting of the ballots, the opening, and the taking of the ballot boxes to canvassing among other things.

Mayhem



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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BOXING: The Moment of Truth-Pacquiao vs Marquez; 10 a.m.; RPN 9 (r-9 p.m.) and Solar Sports —The nation comes to a halt as all eyes will be on Manny "Pac Man" Pacquiao as he tries to gobble up an explosive opponent in Juan Manuel "Dinamita" Marquez.

BASKETBALL: 2004 NBA Playoffs-Heat vs Pacers, Game 2, Eastern Semifinals; 7 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Miami and Indiana continue their semifinal series at the Conseco Fieldhouse.

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Groundswell of support for Pacquiao

PACQUIAO: Secret weapon

MARQUEZ: Filipino in trouble

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Mexican fight fans, expected to pour into the fight site from both sides of the border, will predictably overwhelm the many Filipino backers of Manny Pacquiao.

In fact, Pacquiao was a victim of rudeness during the weigh-in when he was booed and heckled by a horde of flag-waving Mexicans as the RP boxing idol walked into the Hollywood Theater Friday.

The Mexicans, who lustily cheered Juan Manuel Marquez as he strode onto the weighing scales, will not however be lacking in opposition.

A horde of Filipinos moved into the theater in time to hail Pacquiao in his turn to check championship poundage.

A later check by the INQUIRER bared that the Filipinos took leave and came all the way from New Jersey, Virginia, Chicago, Texas, San Francisco and Los Angeles to rally behind Pacquiao.

There was already a big enough Filipino group, headed by trader Cris Aquino who came all the way from Manila with Pacquiao T-shirts, caps and RP pennants, in time for the weigh-in.

But as evening set in, a group headed by Lando Hiso who flew in from Chicago, was about to be joined by other Pacquiao fans from other cities.

This ensures a real fiesta during the championship card billed as "Hearts and Fists on Fire."

But the biggest surprise among the Pacquiao backers was Rolando Quiroga who came all the way from Buenos Aires.

He's not Filipino, actually an Argentinean, but the sight of Pacquiao demolishing Marco Antonio Barrera last year turned him into a lover of the Philippines.

"Pacquiao is the real thing, he's a golden champion. I love him and the country where he came from," said the fortyish Argentinean.

Quiroga came in with his wife, also a Pacquiao convert.

May they be rewarded with another classic Pacquiao win.

• **Manny's mom's prayer /A26**
• **Spectator: 'Pac' by KO /A26**

Barakos end losing spell, tame Tigers

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Sta. Lucia Realty
6:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Shell

By June Navarro

RED Bull Barako leaned on Davonn Harp to wallop Coca-Cola, 99-90, last night in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Philsports Arena.

Unstoppable in the shaded lane, Harp banged in 14 of his 23 points in the third quarter on top of 11 rebounds and four assists as the Barakos finally ended a three-game skid, their longest this season.

The Barakos, who lost Homer Se in the first quarter for committing an unsportsmanlike foul on Coca-Cola import Mark Sanford, improved to 7-7, just a game behind the fourth-running Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

"Our destiny is still in our hands," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, whose Barakos are aiming for the No. 4 spot going into the playoffs.

"We just have to string up at least two wins," Guiao added.

The third and fourth placers after the eliminations get a twice-to-beat edge in the wildcard playoffs. After the elims, the top two teams automatically gain outright entry into the quarterfinals while the rest go through a knockout phase to determine the four others who will join them.

In the nightcap, Barangay Ginebra overwhelmed Purefoods, 117-89, to raise its record to 6-8. Purefoods slipped to 4-10.

BARAKOS/ A26

Manny's mom prays for Mother's Day gift

By Salven L. Lagumbay

"I ONLY have a simple wish—that he will come home safe and victorious on my birthday."

DIONESIA Pacquiao

Thus said Dionesia "Nene" Pacquiao, the consensus world featherweight king Manny Pacquiao's beloved mom and No. 1 cheerleader as she looks forward to today's clash between his son and WBA/IBF featherweight champ Juan Manuel Marquez.

The 55-year-old Dionesia will turn a year older on May 15.

However, when told that the fight also falls on Mother's Day, Dionesia Pacquiao let out a hearty laugh, and wished that his son could also deliver a Mother's Day gift.

"I am always praying that Manny will win. I'm a devout Catholic, and I always visit the church to pray for my son. I hope the whole nation will also pray for him," said the elder Pacquiao.

Today's Las Vegas clash will also serve as some sort of a get-together for the Pacquiao clan as relatives of Manny are expected to troop to the champ's well-furnished home in Labangal, General Santos City to watch their hero fight on television.

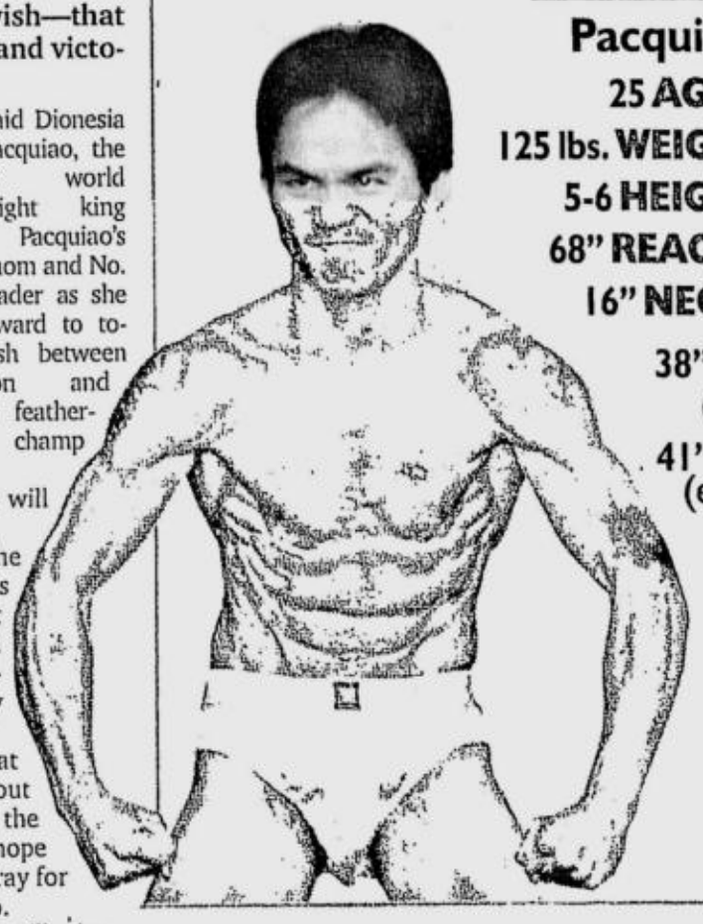
"I always invite Manny's father Rosalio to watch the fight in the house, although he no longer lives with us," Dionesia said. "I tell him to watch our son, because Manny is our dear son."

Also slated to be at "ringside" when action heats up at the Pacquiao residence today are his brothers Bobby, the reigning RP junior lightweight champ and 22-year-old Rogelio and sister Isidra.

"This house will be full of relatives this Sunday. *Mag-amo gyud ta nga modaug si Manny* (Please let us pray that Manny will win)," Dionesia said.

TALE OF THE TAPE

Pacquiao vs Marquez



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125 lbs. WEIGHT 125 lbs.

5-6 HEIGHT 5-7

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41" CHEST 40" (expanded)

13" BICEPS 14"

12" FOREARMS 11"

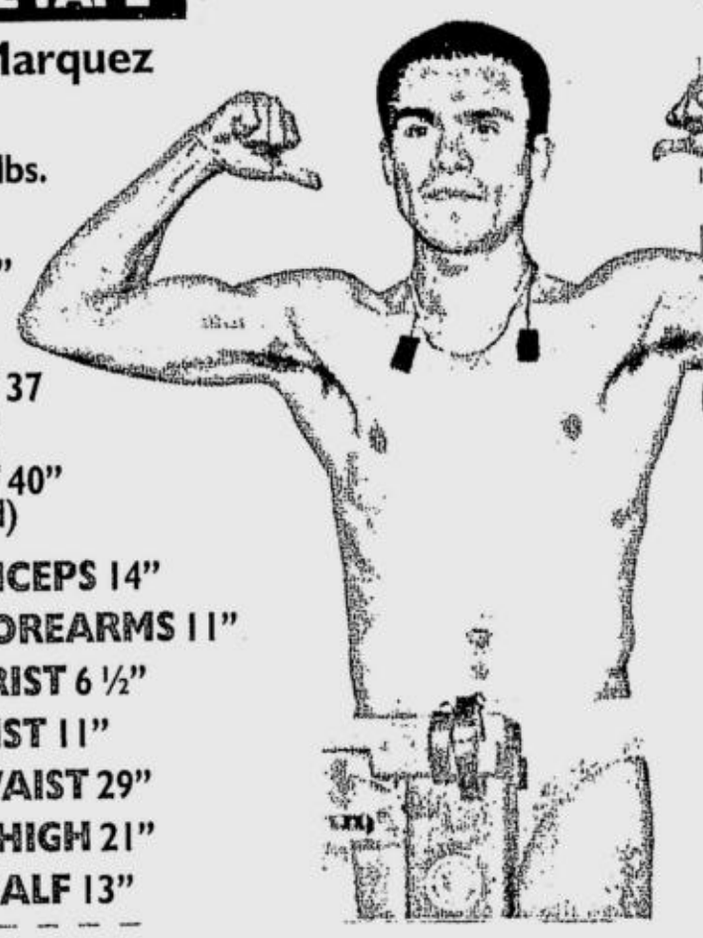
8" WRIST 6 ½"

10" FIST 11"

28" WAIST 29"

20" THIGH 21"

15" HALF 13"



Titular fight on RPN-9, Solar-29

SOLAR Sports will telecast the Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez world featherweight championship fight at 10 a.m. today (Sunday, May 9) simulcast on RPN-9 and Solar Channel 29. The replay will be at 9 p.m. tonight on RPN, and Tuesday, 9 p.m. Solar Sports.

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad will be Solar's ringside interviewer on-site in Las Vegas, Nevada.

For the first time ever, boxing fans can watch the fight on their cellular phones through Solar's mobile video streaming service. Initially available on Globe Telecoms, subscribers may text the word "STREAM" to 2364 and get instant access to the fight. The service is available to owners of Nokia 7650, 6600, 3650 or 3660 handsets.

In addition, fans can also text their personal greetings to Pacquiao by sending the word "GUDLUK" followed by their message to 2364.

Each message sent gives subscribers a chance to win autographed Pacquiao memorabilia, cellular phones and P100 cell loads.

Pacquiao by knockout

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE ONLY trouble with today's Pacquiao-Marquez fight is that between both fighters, only Pacquiao has tasted a knockout defeat. Twice at that. Marquez has never been knocked out in 44 fights.

Other than that dangerous fact, everything else seems to augur well for Pacquiao.

The mercurial Manny Pacquiao, the only Filipino today whose name lights up the world stage in glittering fashion, is challenging Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez for the world featherweight titles of the World Boxing Association and the International Boxing Federation.

Not since Flash Elorde's days has a Filipino fighter commanded so much attention and hype as Manny Pacquiao.

In the Ledhwabah fight some years back, Pacquiao was a mere nondescript, a substitute whose talent and skill were deemed suspect. Even when he knocked out the African champion to win the IBF super bantamweight title, Pacquiao was not given the world recognition due him.

In the Barrera fight last November, Pacquiao was the gruesome 4-1 underdog. Only when he knocked out Barrera in the 11th round did Pacquiao start to reap the accolade due a world-class fighter.

Offers of megabuck fights would soon come his way. In today's fight, Pacquiao would gross $1 million—the biggest purse yet to be earned by any Filipino boxer in history.

Not to brag but if only to jog your memory, I had predicted Pacquiao to beat Barrera by knockout—one of the few hardy souls who defied the odds. Before the fight, many of my buddies were ridiculing me, accusing me of being overly patriotic that's why I picked Pacquiao; no way, they said, that Pacquiao could defeat a legend like Marco Antonio Barrera.

I endured the brickbats.

I suffered in silence.

When Pacquiao won, I rejoiced in silence.

Before the Barrera fight, never have I predicted Pacquiao to lose a fight.

When Pacquiao suffered his first defeat early in his career, I did not know him that much yet. I'd soon learn much later that he lost because he fought that bout too confident, totally underestimating his opponent. In boxing, each boxer has a knockout punch; the careless one Pacquiao was in that fight, he got tagged by the kayo punch.

In his second knockout defeat, he was really doomed to absorb it.

Before that fight, held in Thailand, Pacquiao had tried desperately to reduce weight that when he climbed the ring, he looked more like a zombie than a world champ. So dehydrated, debilitated, was he that he swung away blindly at a foe that looked imaginary to him. It was just a matter of time before he was delivered to dreamland.

It was that fight, which he had lost even before he climbed the ring to supposedly defend his WBC flyweight crown because of a law that declares a champ dethroned if he fails to make the weight limit during the official weigh-in, that actually brought him back to reality.

Learning his lessons, Pacquiao transformed himself into a disciplined boxer. Finding it hard to keep his weight under control, he left the flyweight division and moved up to the bantamweight division. He returned to serious business and, not long after, he regained his old form. His fifth-round knockout of Ledhwaba was the spark that gunned up his return to the top.

If Barrera was the fight that catapulted Pacquiao to the world stage, the fight with Marquez today should more than legitimize his claim to world fame. That is, if he wins it.

Like Barrera, who was in a pedestal be-

PACQUIAO, A28

RESEARCH WITH INTEGRITY

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Political opinion polling is one among a broad range of uses of survey researches. Properly and scientifically done, opinion polling is a valid and reliable way of measuring voters' opinions and preference.

Recently, the credibility of some of our members have been put to question by certain sectors regarding survey results gathered by NFO-Trends for Social Weather Stations (SWS).

We in MORES believe in the integrity of Mercy Abad of NFO-TRENDS and Dr. Mahar Mangahas of SWS as impartial and unbiased research professionals who through the years have earned the trust of the research industry and the business sector by their strict adherence to the MORES Code of Ethics

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Barakos ... From page A25

The scores:

First Game

RED BULL 99—Thomas 25, Harp 23, Tugade 12, Pennisi 12, Valenzuela 9, Lopez 6, Villanueva 5, Asaytono 5, Tonon 2, Robinson 0, Baguio 0, Se 0.

COCA-COLA 90—Sanford 20, Cariaso 19, Hugnatan 12, Juinio 7, Antonio 6, David 5, Hawkins 4, Avenino 4, Abamentos 4, Morano 4, Wainwright 3, Reavis 2, Lao 0.

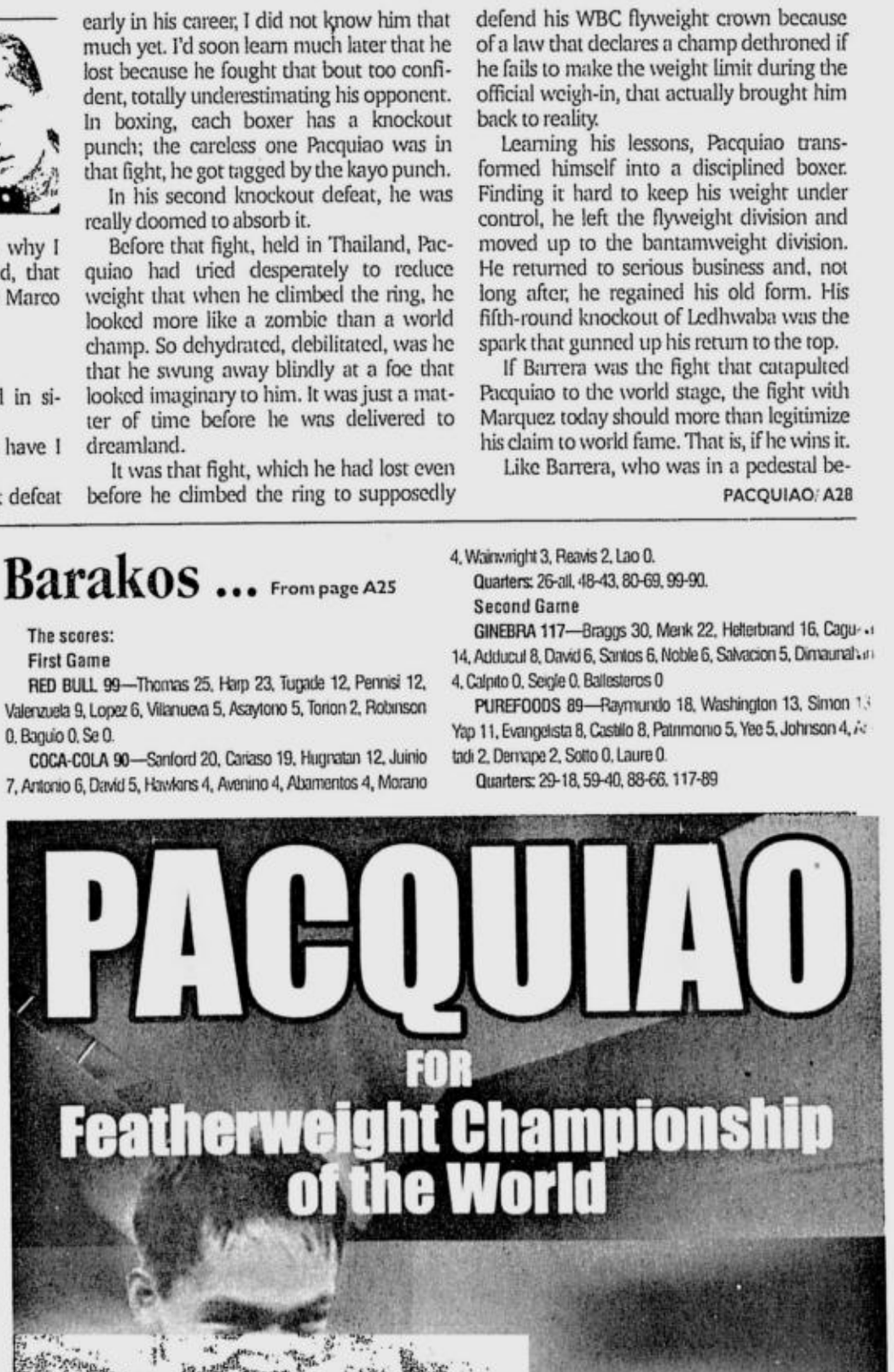
Quarters: 26-all, 48-43, 80-69, 99-90.

Second Game

GINEBRA 117—Braggs 30, Menk 22, Helterbrand 16, Caguioa 14, Adducul 8, David 6, Santos 6, Noble 6, Salvacion 5, Dimaunahan 4, Calpito 0, Segle 0, Ballesteros 0

PUREFOODS 89—Raymundo 18, Washington 13, Simon 13, Yap 11, Evangelista 8, Castillo 8, Patrimonio 5, Yee 5, Johnson 4, Estadi 2, Demape 2, Sotto 0, Laure 0.

Quarters: 29-18, 59-40, 88-66, 117-89



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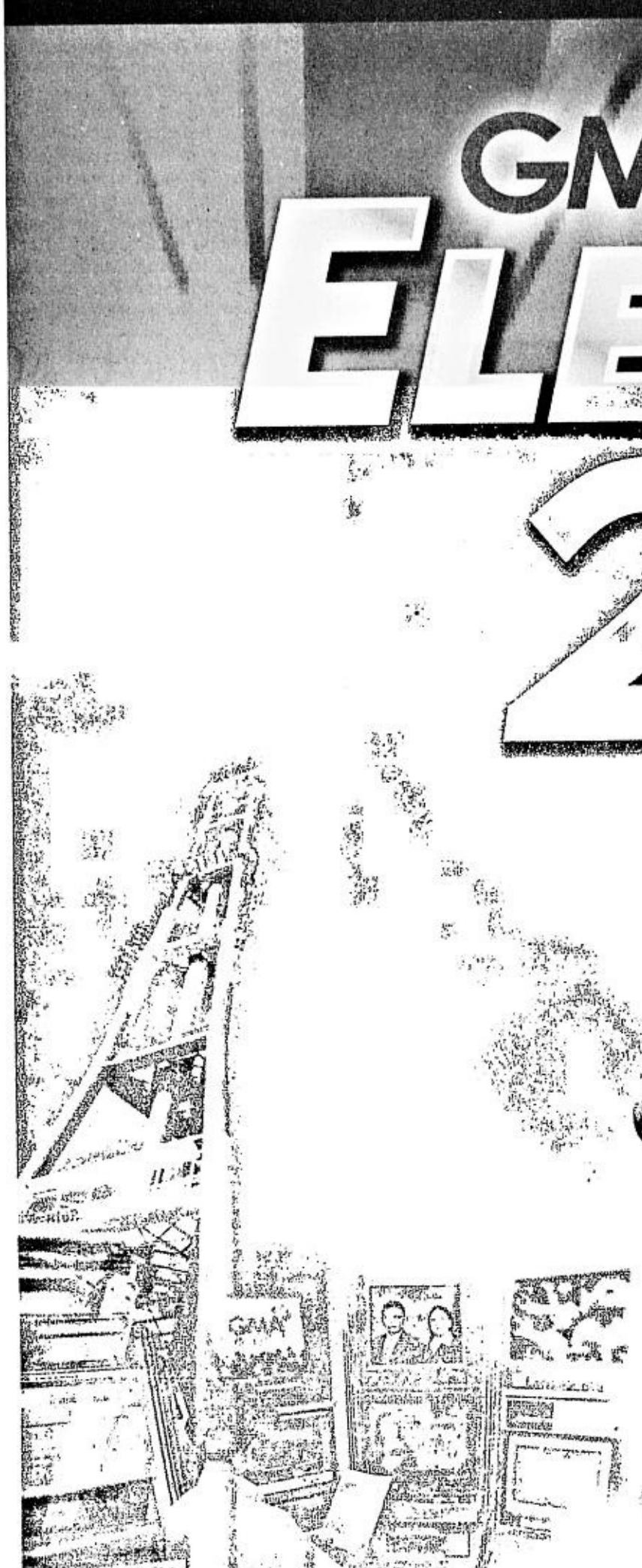

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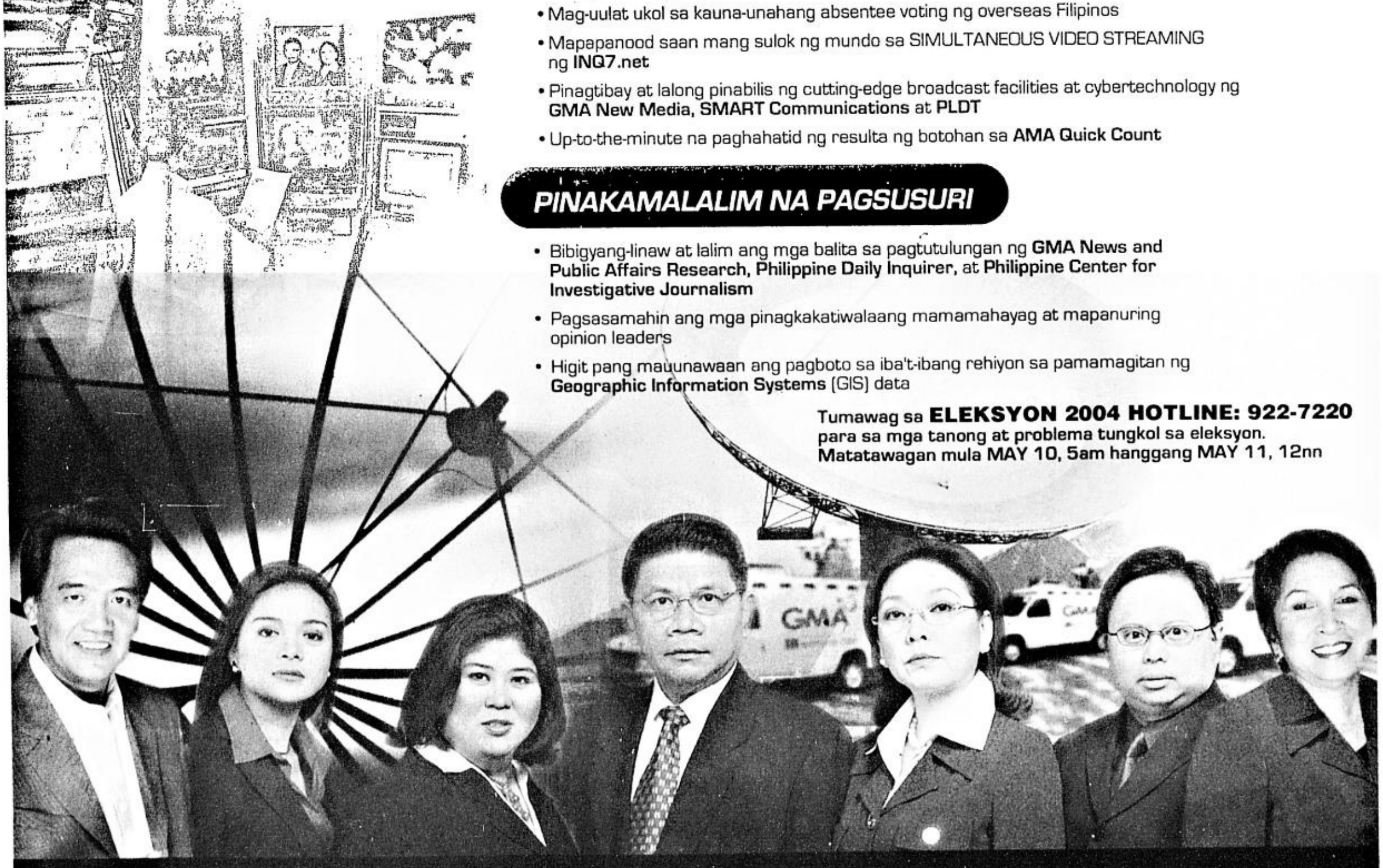

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Bata, Kiamco forge semis duel

KIAMKO: Out to end string of near misses

By Roy Luarca

TAIPEI—When Efren "Bata" Reyes is in form, he's almost invincible.

Weaving the magic that has earned him a place in the billiards Hall of Fame, Reyes trounced Korean Park Shin Young, 9-4, Saturday night to book a semifinal duel with compatriot Warren Kiamco in the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour here.

Kiamco, searching for his first title after three near misses, downed Fil-Malaysian Ibrahim Bin Amir, 9-4, in another quarterfinal at the Leader Asia-Pacific Activity Center.

Leaving nothing to chance, Reyes breezed to a 6-0 lead and then coasted to victory that pushed him closer to a third title in the country-hopping $250,000-tournament sponsored by San Miguel Beer.

The 50-year-old Reyes ruled the Singapore and Ho Chi Minh legs before settling for third place in the third leg in Hong Kong won by Taiwanese Yang Ching-sun. In the Tour's inaugural in Manila last year, Reyes also triumphed at the expense of Kiamco.

"I was lucky because Ibrahim beat Yang in the round of 16," said Kiamco, noting that he has yet to beat the Taiwanese in a tournament.

It was the first meeting between Kiamco and Ibrahim, who was born in Gen. Santos City but migrated to Sabah 30 years ago.

Against Reyes, Kiamco feels he has to play his best to stand a chance. In the 2001 Southeast Asian Games, he put one over Reyes. But Reyes denied Kiamko the Singapore leg title in their last meeting.

Earlier, Reyes bested compatriot Lee Vann Corteza, 9-6, to arrange the clash with Park, 9-8 conqueror of Taiwanese Hsia Hui-kai in the round of 16.

"*Natapat. Bawi na lang sa sunod* (I'll try to do better next time)," said Corteza, a double-gold medalist in the Vietnam SEA Games, who idolizes Reyes.

Another Filipino, Antonio Gabica, also reached the quarterfinals where he bowed to world No. 9 Korean Jeong Young Hwa, 9-5.

The 31-year-old Gabica, champion of a televised circuit back home, mastered Japanese Satoshi Kawabata, 9-3, in round 2 Friday night. The feat earned the Lapu-Lapu City-based Gabica $1,750 (P98,000).

Kiamco, on the other hand, barged into the quarterfinals at the expense of countryman Leonardo Andam, 9-5, sustaining his fine showing in the circuit organized by ESPN Star Sports' Event Management group.

Among the six Filipinos sent here by Puyat Sports, only Francisco "Django" Bustamante, currently the world's top-ranked player, crashed out in the first round.

In contrast, the seven-man Taiwanese squad headed by Yang and two-time world champion Chao Fong-pang, were wiped out before the quarterfinals, where only 15-year-old prodigy Wu Chia-ching advanced. Wu yielded, 9-8, to Thai Chatchawal Ruthpae, who forged a semis duel with Jeong, the Busan Asian Games silver medalist.

Jewels dazzle, Eagles soar in PBL Unity Cup

STANDINGS	W	L
Viva Mineral Water	7	1
Welcoat	6	3
Sunkist-UST	4	4
Hapee	4	4
Montaña	4	5
Blu Star	3	5
Toyota Otis-Letran	3	6
Lee Pipes-Ateneo	3	6

GAMES TUESDAY (*UST Gym*)
2 p.m.—Viva-FEU vs Hapee
4 p.m.—Blu Star vs Sunkist-UST

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AL MAGPAYO drained two three-pointers in a searing rally late in the third quarter and Montaña went on to down Toyota Otis-Letran, 73-63, yesterday and keep its hopes alive for a twice-to-beat incentive in the quarterfinal playoffs of the PBL 2nd Unity Cup.

Magpayo finished with a game-high 18 points as he sparked a decisive 14-5 run that gave the Jewels the lead to stay at 59-50.

Montaña's fourth win in nine games strengthened the Jewels' bid for one of the top two berths among four teams that will dispute two semifinal slots behind Viva Mineral Water and Welcoat Paints.

In the second game at the Blue Eagles gym, JC Intal scored in the final second as Lee Pipes-Ateneo nipped Welcoat, 72-70.

The Eagles improved to 3-6 in a tie for last place with the Knights even as the Paint Masters kept second place overall at 6-3 behind the leading 7-1 card of Viva.

The scores:

First Game

MONTAÑA 73—Magpayo 18, Vergara 16, Baluyot 7, Buenafe 7, Espiritu 6, Baguio 5, Junio 5, Guerrero 4, Tolentino 3, Salvador 2.

TOYOTA-OTIS 63—Enrile 17, Aban 12, Dula 9, Aldave 9, Bautista 5, Daa 4, Codamon 2, Rodriguez 2, Valdez 2, Abadia 1.

Quarters: 24-19, 40-35, 59-50, 73-63.

Second Game

LEE PIPES 72—Gelig 16, Tenorio 11, Fonacier 10, Del Rosario 9, Bugia 9, Intal 6, Manalo 3, Domingo 2, Roldan 2, Membrere 2, Cruz 2.

WELCOAT 70—Tangkay 15, Tolomia 14, Ortiguerra 11, Aldeguer 9, Uy 7, Capus 6, Gatumbato 4, Reyes 4.

Quarters: 17-16, 33-34, 59-57, 72-70.

VERGARA scores for Montaña. PDI PHOTO

Pacquiao by KO

From page A26

fore he was brought down to earth by Pacquiao, Marquez is also almost an icon in Mexico. In 44 fights, he lost only twice—on points. He has 33 knockouts and owns an impressive streak of 10 successive KO wins. His winning percentage is a high 95.4 percent as against Pacquiao's 93.1 percent. He has fought a total of 267 rounds as against Pacquiao's 183 rounds.

Those are numbers not seen in the tale of the tape.

Pacquiao, the lefty from General Santos City, has a higher knockout percentage than Marquez-77 percent to the Mexican's 75 percent. The Filipino consumes 4.5 rounds per fight as against Marquez' 6 rounds per fight. In 41 fights, Pacquiao has scored 30 knockouts from his 38 wins.

In less than two months of training for today's fight, Pacquiao has logged 135 rounds of sparring as compared to the 105 rounds he did in the Barrera fight. This could only mean one thing: Pacquiao has really learned to treat every fight seriously.

Now to the main meat of this piece: Pacquiao or Marquez?

Of course, Pacquiao. Not that I'm being overly patriotic again. Pacquiao will always be my choice because I have always believed that if he is in top shape, he is, will always be, unbeatable. At this stage, only Pacquiao can beat Pacquiao.

In short, he fights unprepared, he will lose. He fights carelessly, he will lose.

But if he fights the way he fought Barrera, say your prayers now for Marquez. Power for power, nobody beats Pacquiao.

Pacquiao used to be a mere brute force. Today, he is more than that. His footwork, body movement, hand speed—they have become engineering marvels.

My forecast?

Pacquiao, 25, will most probably put away Marquez, 30, before Round 7; it can even happen in Round 3 or before that, or Round 5 or before that.

If I flub, I will vote for FPJ.

Boycott urged for age group chess tourney

TROUBLE is brewing, again, in Philippine chess.

Three parents and guardians of junior chess players yesterday appealed to their counterparts to boycott the national age group championship slated May 17-21 by the National Chess Federaton of the Philippines.

Nelson Mariano, Diosdado Fronda and Sheryl Cua said unless the NCFP resolve some of their complaints, they are not fielding their kids in the tourney to be held at the Marketplace in Mandaluyong.

They also urged that a separate age group championship to be sanctioned by the Fide or the international chess federation be held on May 21-25 at the Star Mall also in Mandaluyong.

"There's no problem with that because we are not forcing anyone to join us," said NCFP director Eugene Torre. "They can hold their own age-group championships but ours is sanctioned by the NCFP."

Mariano, father of IM Nelson II, WIM Christine Rose and age-grouper Nelson III, claimed the NCFP has yet to explain the status of the "missing" allowances of 10 age groupers and officials who went to the World Youth Chess Championships in Halkidiki, Greece from Oct. 22 to Nov. 4.

They claimed that the Philippine Sports Commission had released P437,400 representing the allowances of $450 each for the 10 athletes and seven officials. Mariano said the allowances never reached them.

But Torre said the amount represented the plane fare of the entourage. The parents, added Torre, can visit the NCFP office and check the association's position on the matter. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Tañamor stops foe; Ladon falls

KARACHI, Pakistan—Harry Tañamor provided a ray of hope to the RP-Alaxan FR team's campaign in the 3rd Asian Olympic boxing qualifying tournament Friday night at the KPT Sports Complex here.

The 25-year-old Tañamor of the Philippine Army easily advanced to the quarterfinals of the 48-kg (flyweight) division by pummeling into submission Sri Lankan Harsha Kumara via a Referee Stopped Contest Outscored (RSCOS), 25-5.

But the RP celebration was cut short when Junard Ladon lost to Terukado Shoyama of Japan, 20-33, in a 57-kg (featherweight) bout the Filipino clearly won.

Informed of the big disparity in the score, RP coaches George Caliwan and Pat Gaspi said the scores may have been switched.

For four rounds, Ladon, a native of Bago City, engaged his rival in a series of vicious, toe-to-toe exchanges, coming away with the more effective combinations.

To the RP delegation's dismay, the judges still picked the Japanese.

"*Pera na, naging bato pa* (I lost a golden chance)," said Ladon, a member of the Philippine Navy whose stint in the meet serving as Asia's final Olympic qualifying tournament was also supported by his superiors Adm. Ernesto de Leon, BNS Capt. Francasio Alfonso and Capt. Pablo Acasio.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez also expressed disappointment, but reminded Tañamor and Jennibert Basadre to keep their focus.

In-form Jenny 5 shots adrift

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia—Jenny Rosales banged in five consecutive birdies from the third hole en route to a 5-under-par 67 Friday as she moved up to fourth—and stayed on target for her second straight title—in the $2.2-million LPGA Michelob Open.

Coming off her breakthrough victory last week in the Chick-Fil-A Championship in Stockbridge, Georgia, Rosales kept herself in the hunt with a 136 total. She stayed just five strokes behind going into the weekend action.

Kim Williams, whose career has been marred by a bullet and a car wreck, had an eagle and six birdies on a bogey-free day, carding a career-best 8-under-par 63 to reach 11-under 131 after 36 holes.

The only time Williams has had her name in the news over the past decade has been by accident. She was struck in the neck by a stray bullet while entering a drug store in 1994 and broke her collarbone and sternum three years ago in a head-on collision.

Williams' best finish during a 17-year LPGA Tour career was a runner-up showing in 1988. She has made only 44 of 104 cuts since 1998, missing the last four this year.

"I feel really good, I feel confident and I will just take that every week and put myself in a good position again and get that second win," Rosales said.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin, who was tied for second at the start of the day, ballooned to a 78 for 144 and barely made the cut pegged at 146.

Elsewhere:

• In Fuji, Japan, Frankie Miñoza shot a 1-under-par 70 for a 54-hole total of 210 and a share of 34th spot in the Fujisankei Classic at the Kawana Hotel Golf Club.

• In Macau, Jerome Delariarte was the best-placed Filipino among the four Filipinos who made the cut in the Macau Open. He matched par 71 for 210 and was among those in 38th place. *Jong Arcano with wire reports*

ROSALES reacts to a birdie putt on the ninth hole during the second round of the Michelob Ultra Open. AP

Streetball Luzon finals today in San Fernando

SUMMERTIME'S favorite half-court action resumes with the 2004 adidas Streetball Luzon finals today at the open parking area of the Robinsons Starmalls in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Battling in the girls' division are teams from Universidad de Sta. Isabel, La Salle-Lipa, University of Luzon, St. Louis University and St. Nichols Parish Academy.

Seeing action in seniors play are Ateneo de Naga, La Salle-Lipa, and Our Lady of Manaoag College. St. Scholastica's and Barangay Upper General Luna will contest the midgets division crown.

"We are happy to host the Luzon finals. We expect more people to see the action," said Gil Cortez, the tournament's Luzon coordinator.

Tough Cebu five wallops Spring

ILOILO CITY—Powerhouse Cebu-GMC took advantage of Spring Cooking Oil-Laguna's off night to hammer out a 108-80 win Friday and take solo leadership in the Panasonic-Iloilo preseason games of the National Basketball Conference at the University of San Agustin gym.

Dennis Concha and Alfie Grijaldo combined for 44 points to power the Cebu Basketball Federation champion to their second straight victory.

Later in the day, Carlos Sayon waxed hot in the final half to lift Iloilo All-Stars to a 96-90 victory over the Baguio City Cardinals.

Iloilo tied Spring at 1-1.

The scores:

First Game

CEBU 108—Concha 25, Grijaldo 19, Salagada 17, Lanete 15, Cainglet 14, Gabas 7, Umal 7, Lozano 2, Arellano 2.

SPRING-LAGUNA 80—Epondulan 13, Sanz 11, Reyes 10, Mendoza 8, Kalaw 8, Lingal 7, Corbin 7, Caceres 5, Manuel 5.

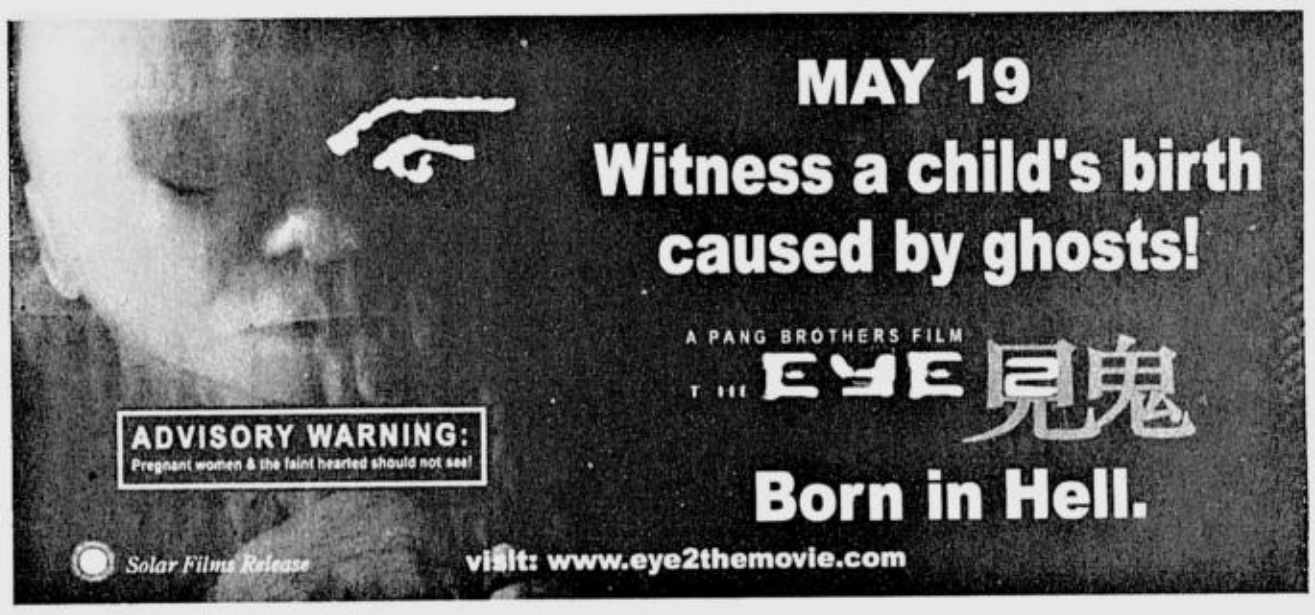
Quarters: 26-25, 58-43, 85-62, 108-80

Second Game

ILOILO 96—Sayon 30, Allado 17, Sinco 14, Olaguer 9, Tiongco 7, Marucot 6, Unarce 4, Poral 4, Pido 2, Aguilar 2.

BAGUIO 90—Ton 18, Mapanao 11, Bona 10, Fontanilla 8, Ancheta 8, Balares 7, Collado 7, Carino 5, Mondina 2, Rotoni 2.

Quarters: 25-35, 59-55, 78-81, 96-90

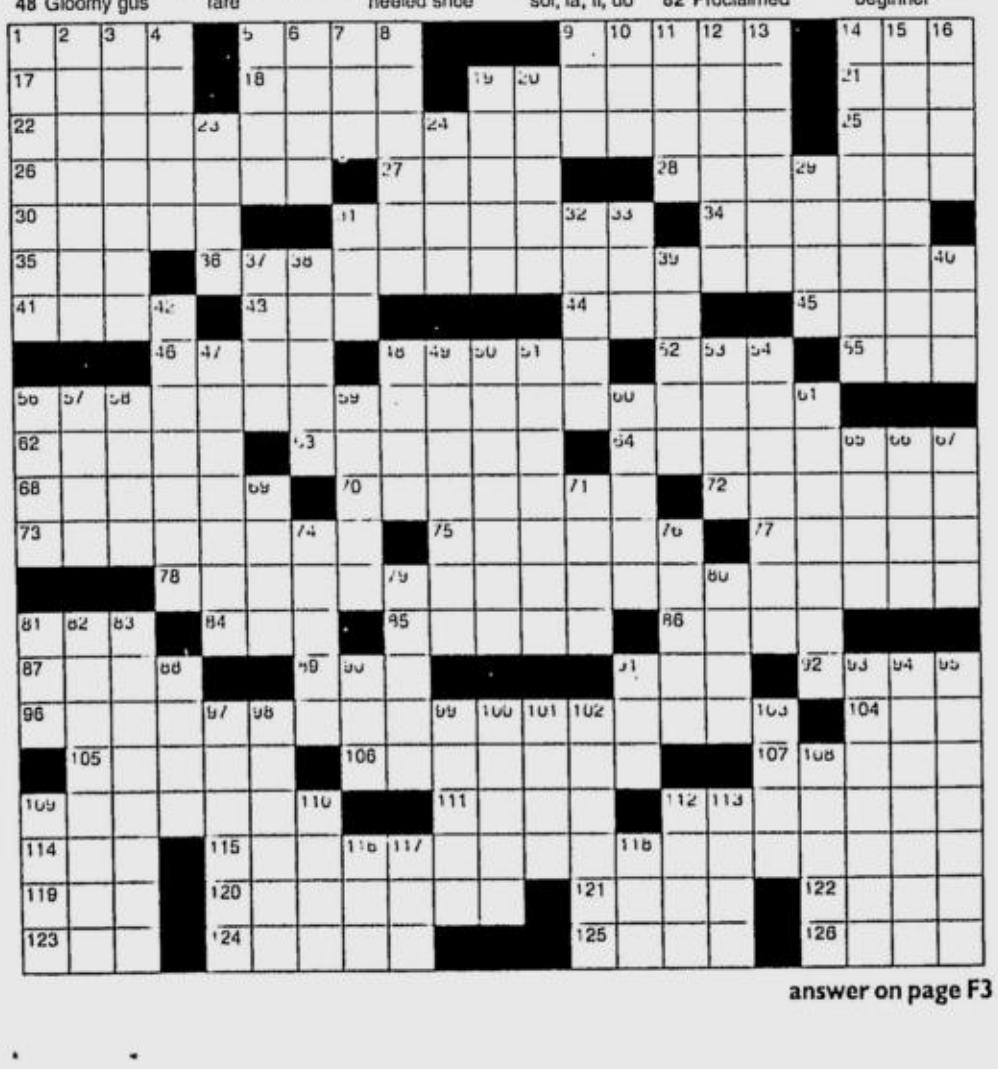


SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone — **A FIG**

ACROSS
1 Icky stuff
5 Gush forth
9 Amoco alternative
14 Helmsman's "Help!"
17 Toy building block brand
18 Peace Nobelist Wiesel
19 Sign, as a check
21 Fitting
22 Start of a question
25 Meadow
26 Antarctic waddler
27 Smile
28 Rising suddenly
30 Eve who played Miss Brooks
31 Heartfelt
34 Conger catcher
35 British actor Stephen
36 Question, part 2
41 Something to have a stake in
43 The — Nineties
44 Clancy or Cruise
45 Final Four org.
46 Person who does Windows?
48 Gloomy gus
52 "Thrilla in Manila" boxer
55 "The Tonight Show" announcer Hall
56 Question, part 3
62 Show to be false
63 Conquer
64 Lifted up
68 Insect egg depository
70 Hobby
72 Do harm to
73 "Not on your life!"
75 Tribal emblems
77 Jolliess joe?
78 Question, part 4
81 Driver's license, passport, etc.
84 Kimono sash
85 — -ski party
86 Venetian beach resort
87 Antique autos
89 Mork's home
91 Sault — Marie
92 Safecracker, slangily
96 Question, part 5
104 "— -haw!" (cowboy's cry)
105 Made defective
106 Reducing the fare
107 That is, to Ovid
109 Nutritional unit
111 Answering machine prompt
112 Adds more seasoning to
114 Internet address
115 End of the question
119 See 23 Down
120 Sowed
121 Big name in private jets
122 Kett of comics
123 Do basic math
124 "— -Ho" (Seven Dwarfs' song)
125 Architect Saarinen
126 River of France and Belgium

DOWN
1 Desktop publisher's designs
2 Sports play-caller
3 Kampala native
4 Sidestep
5 Eighteen-wheeler
6 Map out
7 German article
8 Triangular-heeled shoe
9 Caesar's 1,600
10 Fireworks observer's cry
11 Male sibs
12 Magazine publisher, e.g.
13 Ogled
14 Striking feature
15 Stretch with minimal traffic
16 Male deer
19 Kick out
20 "Buffalo Stance" singer Cherry
23 With 119 Across, "The Andy Griffith Show" matron
24 Sea eagle
29 Campbell of country
31 Surreptitious
32 Like bell bottoms, now
33 Freudian topic
37 S-shaped molding
38 Unit of capacitance
39 "— and the Night Visitors"
40 Craze
42 Country in North Africa
47 Affirm under oath
48 Do, re, —, sol, la, ti, do
49 Like some shopping
50 It includes the Masters and the U.S. Open
51 Authorize
53 German art song
54 Intruded upon
56 Black, to bards
57 "Whip It" rock group
58 Yale students
59 Ward off
60 Abounds (with)
61 Hand-held Nintendo system
65 Tex-Mex treat
66 "Zounds!"
67 Resist boldly
69 Cranky character
71 Docs prescribe them
74 "Adam Bede" novelist
76 Knighted conductor Georg
79 Stop snoozing
80 Outward appearance
81 "Rosemary's Baby" novelist Levin
82 Proclaimed
83 Termed as such
88 Japanese wrestling
90 Greek consonant
91 Stage scenery
93 Holes for shoelaces
94 Carry in the womb
95 Makes good progress
97 High-order angel
98 Fit for the table
99 Dull finish
100 Boy George's last name
101 Done, in Dijon
102 Potato bug, for one
103 Main idea
108 Chicago mayor Richard
109 Castro's country
110 Morales of movies
112 Sound of a loud crowd
113 Overseas currency unit
116 Chang's twin
117 Advanced degree?
118 Bray beginner



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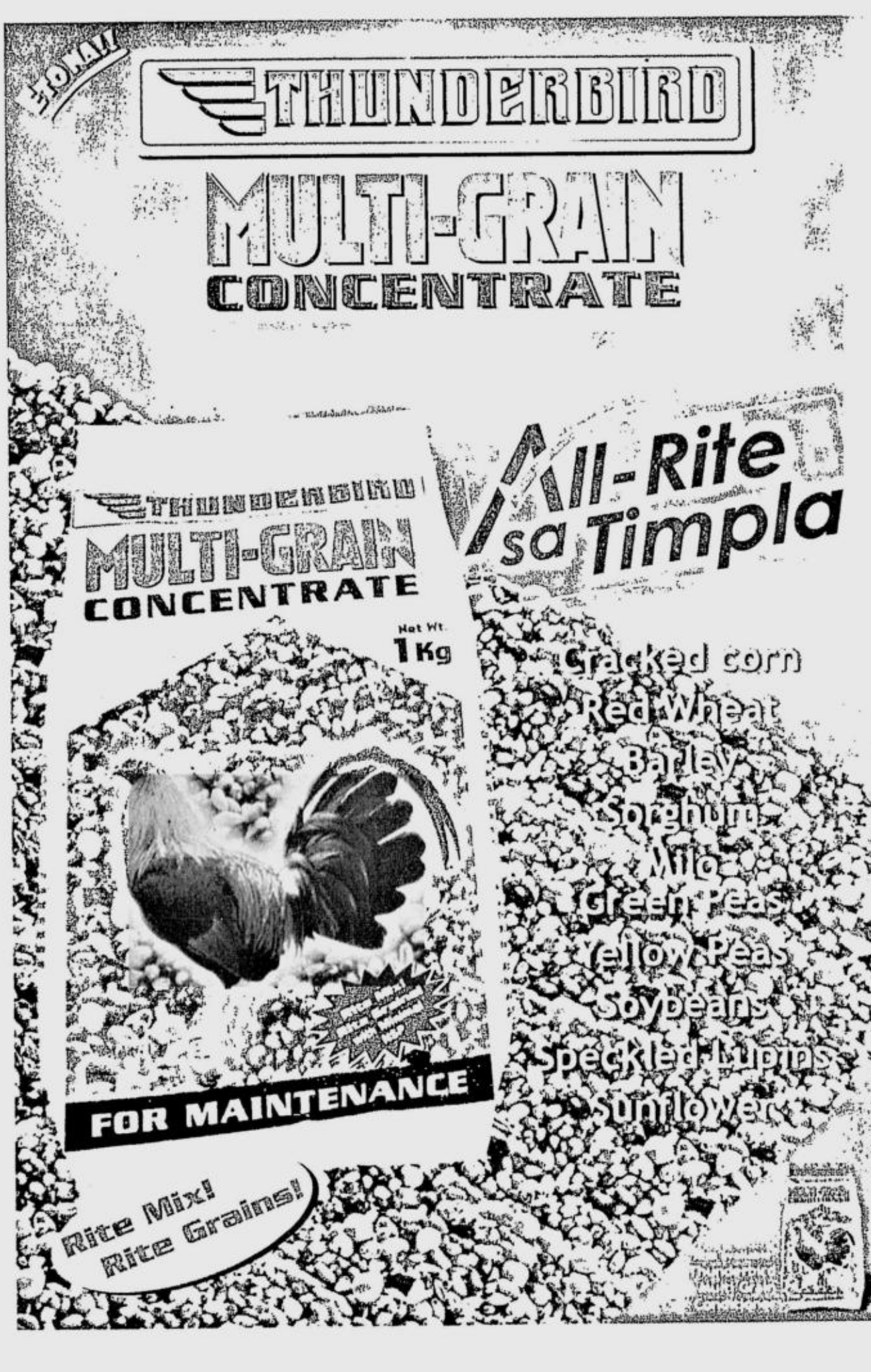

Paderes upsets Gregorio for crown

GRACE Paderes of MEDBA scored a major reversal in the 29th Grand Youth national duckpin championships recently by nosing out MEDBA's Geena Gregorio, 223-222, in the ladies' (class A/B) singles finals at the Puyat Sports Center in Farmers Plaza, Cubao, QC.

Paderes, a class C bowler, knocked out Indang Castillo, 107-101, to earn a shot at Gregorio.

NSBA's Rene Capulan bagged the men's singles title by routing Cadba's Vic Castillo, 266-182, and then ripped Batangas' Cris Mendez, 262-235, to win the men's Masters crown.

Gregorio retained the ladies' Masters plum by holding off D'Friendly's Cess Ubana, 270-254.

Cadba swept the men's and ladies' team crowns. Cadba whipped SODA-PMU, 354-312, in the men's division, and nipped PDBA-Pasig, 332-330, in the ladies' group.

The individual awards went to Bert Sales (404), Wilson Casas (373) and Vey Manalo (435 and 177), while team records went to NSBA White (1148 and 408) and Cadba Fairies (1033 and 372).

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Morning Glory 2 Ladies' Night 3 Gabriela 4. Lucky Fil

Race 2--1. Hallmark 2. Gues' House/Stout Hearted 3 Pride of Mandaue 4. Sil ver Lining

Race 3--1. Moab 2. Toril 3 Don Paolo 4. Doña Gelay 5.Spinning Bullet

Race 4--1. Union Square 2 Puppy Dog Tail 3.Bag girl

Race 5--1. Sweet Alyssa 2 Roughneck 3. Princes: Naida 4. Boy Atchit 5 Looney Tune 6. Amaz ing Firenze

Race 6--1. Blitzkrieg 2. Silve Dollar 3. Bullish Drean 4. Western Dancer 5 Saint Michael

Race 7--1. War Hero 2 American Dame 3 Crystal Show

Race 8--1. Holy King 2. Twi Brother 3 Whistl Blower 4. Happy Agai 5. Ground Wave 6 Prickly Heat

Race 9--1. Elite 2. Game Ove 3. Well Noted 4. Bing bong 5. Captain Stone

Race 10--1. Solid North Terminal Bound Maple My Love 4.D Com 5 Super Spoil 6. Front Page

Race 11--1. Dato's Pride Blue Sheikh 3.Rolex Angie Gray 5. Cool O erator

Race 12--1. Bunker Buster Luck of the Irish 3. Da zling Affair 4. Incred view

Race 13--1. Habagat 2. Kore Ka Dyan 3. Kitana 4.S Emilion 5. Ahead Time 6.Say It's True

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

Central

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1	VAN HELSING
2	HELLBOY
3	VAN HELSING
4	STARSKY & HUTCH
5	PAYCHECK
6	MAN ON FIRE
7	HAUNTED SPIRIT
8	SCHOOL OF ROCK
9	I WILL SURVIVE
10	VAN HELSING
11	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
12	WHOLE 10 YARDS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	MAN ON FIRE
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4	VAN HELSING
5	CONFESSIONS,.. DRAMA QUEEN
6	HELLBOY
7	VAN HELSING
8	PETER PAN
9	I WILL SURVIVE
10	STARSKY & HUTCH
11	SCHOOL OF ROCK
12	VAN HELSING

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	HELLBOY
2	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
3	PAYCHECK
4	VAN HELSING
5	STARSKY & HUTCH
6	VAN HELSING
7	SCHOOL OF ROCK
8	HAUNTED SPIRIT
9	I WILL SURVIVE
10	BOOBITA ROSE
11	MAN ON FIRE
12	VAN HELSING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	VAN HELSING
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	HELLBOY
5	MAN ON FIRE
6	STARSKY & HUTCH
7	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
8	VAN HELSING

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416

1	VAN HELSING
2	MAN ON FIRE
3	VAN HELSING
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	VAN HELSING
6	SCHOOL OF ROCK
7	HELLBOY
8	STARSKY & HUTCH
9	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
10	I WILL SURVIVE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	HELLBOY
2	VAN HELSING
3	VAN HELSING
4	I WILL SURVIVE

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17

1	HELLBOY
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	MAN ON FIRE
4	PAYCHECK

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	VAN HELSING
2	VAN HELSING
3	PETER PAN
4	SCHOOL OF ROCK
5	MAN ON FIRE
6	I WILL SURVIVE

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505

1	STARSKY & HUTCH
2	THE CURSE
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	MAN ON FIRE

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8066808

1	HELLBOY
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3	VAN HELSING
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	MAN ON FIRE
6	BOOBITA ROSE
7	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
8	VAN HELSING
9	STARSKY & HUTCH
10	HAUNTED SPIRIT

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055

1	VAN HELSING
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN
4	VAN HELSING

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975

1	MAN ON FIRE
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	VAN HELSING
4	CONFESSIONS... DRAMA QUEEN

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868

1	MAN ON FIRE
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3	VAN HELSING
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	VAN HELSING
6	I WILL SURVIVE
7	HAUNTED SPIRIT
8	HELLBOY

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80

1	PETER PAN
2	TAKING LIVES
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	I WILL SURVIVE

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876

1	VAN HELSING
2	VAN HELSING
3	PETER PAN
4	SCHOOL OF ROCK
5	PAYCHECK
6	ACACIA
7	I WILL SURVIVE
8	HELLBOY

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422

1	UNINVITED
2	RESERVED
3	PAYCHECK
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	PETER PAN
6	HELLBOY
7	RESERVED
8	TAKING LIVES

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998

1	VAN HELSING
2	PETER PAN
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	PAYCHECK
5	VAN HELSING
6	HELLBOY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8552884

1	TAKING LIVES
2	PETER PAN
3	THE CURSE
4	HELL BOY

—THL— PODIUM CINEMA

1
VAN HELSING
11:30 FS/ 12:00 MF/2:45/5:30/ 8:15/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:15 END

2
STARSKY & HUTCH
11:15 FS/11:45 MF/ 2:00/ 4:15/ 6:30/ 8:45/ 10:300 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/ 12:45 END

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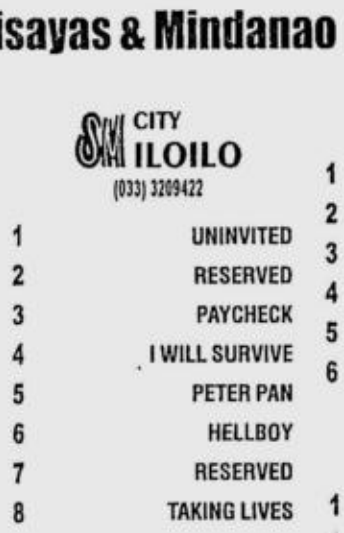

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Filinvest Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
2 (SDDS)	HELLBOY
3 (DTS)	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
4 GOLD (DTS)	MAN OF FIRE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	WHOLE TEN YARDS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	STARSKY & HUTCH
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
8 (DTS)	I WILL SURVIVE
9 (SDDS)	SCHOOL OF ROCK
10 (DTS)	BIG FISH

Eastwood Cinemas
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
2 (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
3 (DOLBY)	STARSKY & HUTCH
4 (DOLBY)	I WILL SURVIVE

Masagana Cinema
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 . 833.3274

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	VAN HELSING
3	ANIMAL

stармall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	WHOLE 10 YARD
5	VAN HELSING

Metropolis Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	CHECK - INN
2	ANIMAL
3	HELLBOY
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	VAN HELSING
6	HAUNTED SPIRIT

Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	VAN HELSING
2	I WILL SURVIVE

Premiere Cinema
(Makati City) tel 892.2503

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	EVIL - 4
2	MY GOOD LAWYERS WIFE
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

5	
6	
7 (DTS)	
8 (SDDS)	
9 (DOLBY)	

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ANIMAL
2	HELLBOY
3	MAN OF FIRE
4 (SDDS)	STARSKY & HUTCH
5	I WILL SURVIVE
6 (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
7 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1	RESERVE
2 (SDDS)	
3 (DTS)	
4 (DOLBY)	
5	

Gotesco Ortigas
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1	MAN ON FIRE
2	ITLOG
3 (DTS)	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
4	ANIMAL
5	VAN HELSING

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1	RESERVE

Dilson
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Dilson Lords	CARMEN MEN'S

Marrietta
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	VAN HELSING
3	VENUS
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
2	WHOLE 10 YARD
3	RESERVE
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	ANIMAL

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	KILL BILL
2	ANIMAL

Araneta Center
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1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (SDDS DIGITAL)	I WILL SURVIVE
4 (SDDS)	VAN HELSING
5 (DTS)	JERSEY GIRL
6	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
7	HELLBOY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	MAN OF FIRE
2	BONE SNATCHERS
3 (DTS EX)	I WILL SURVIVE
4	CARMEN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	HOUSE DEAD
3 (DOLBY)	MAN OF FIRE
4	BONE SNATCHERS

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	PETER PAN
2	TAKING LIVES
3 (DOLBY)	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 (DTS)	HELLBOY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2 (DTS)	HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY)	SCHOOL OF ROCK
4	WHOLE 10 YARD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
3 (DTS)	SCHOOL OF ROCK
4	WHOLE 10 YARD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) t (045) 9821727 L

1	PETER PAN
2	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 (DOLBY)	TAKING LIVES

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	PETER PAN
2	PAY CHECK
3 (DOLBY)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 (DTS)	TAKING LIVES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1	STARSKY & HUTCH
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	MAN OF FIRE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	TWISTED
2	CHECK - IN
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4 (DTS)	DALAWANG PISNGI

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
2	BONE SNATCHERS
3 (DTS)	I WILL SURVIVE
4	SCHOOL OF ROCK
5	WHOLE 10 YARD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	NAGDADALAGA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	WHOLE 10 YARD
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	ANIMAL
2	TAKING LIVES
3 (DTS)	PASSION OF CHRIST
4 (DOLBY)	PAY CHECK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HELLBOY
2	WHOLE 10 YARD
3	MAN OF FIRE
4	STARSKY & HUTCH

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	CHECK-INN
2	TAKING LIVES

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Araneta Center

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Ali 4	VAN HELSING
Ali 5	JERSEY GIRL
Ali 6	CONFESSION... DRAMA QUEEN
Ali 7	HELLBOY

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MAY 23	PBA : SAN MIGUEL VS. FEDEX
MAY 26	PBA : STA LUCIA VS. SHELL
MAY 29	THE SEARCHERS
MAY 30	PBA : RED BULL VS. SAN MIGUEL
JUNE 1	NCA 7-COCK DERBY

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MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	U-BELT / VENUS
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	LIHIGGO LANG ANG PAMBAWI
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SCHOOL OF ROCK
CINEMA-2	ANIMAL
CINEMA-3	WHOLE 10 YARDS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DUDA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MAN ON FIRE
CINEMA-6	MASKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-7	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-8	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CONFESSIONS OF DRAMA QUEEN
CINEMA-12	STARSKY & HUTCH
CINEMA-14	HELLBOY
CINEMA-15	I WILL SURVIVE

LORES

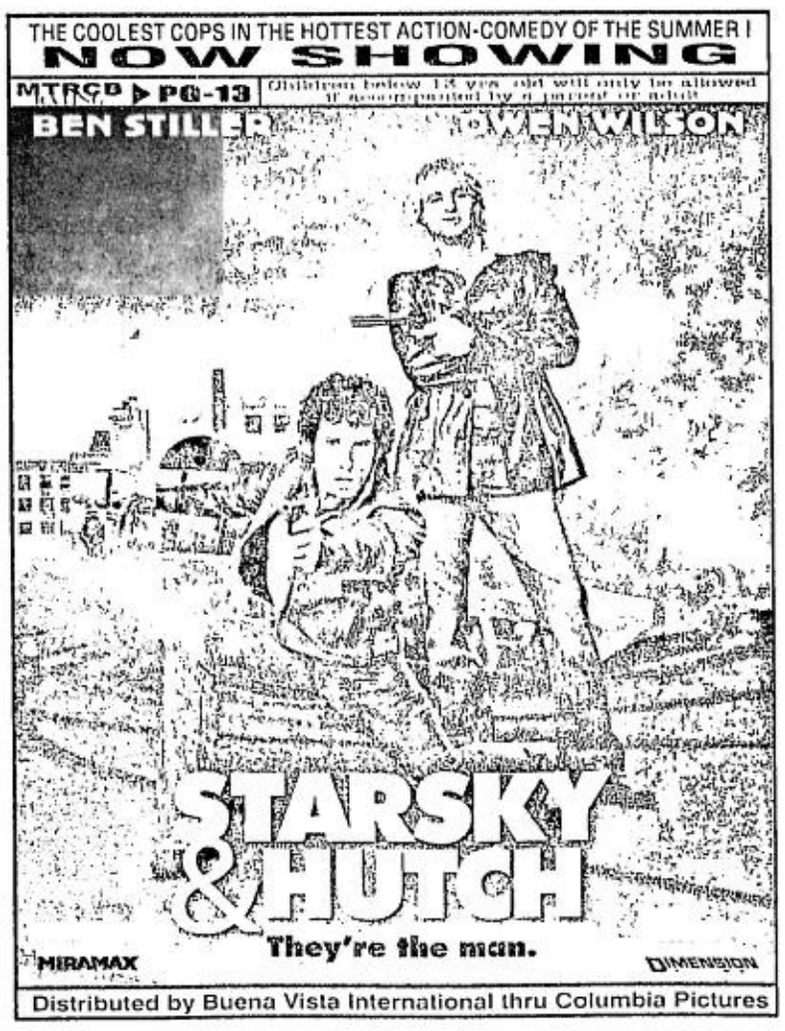
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

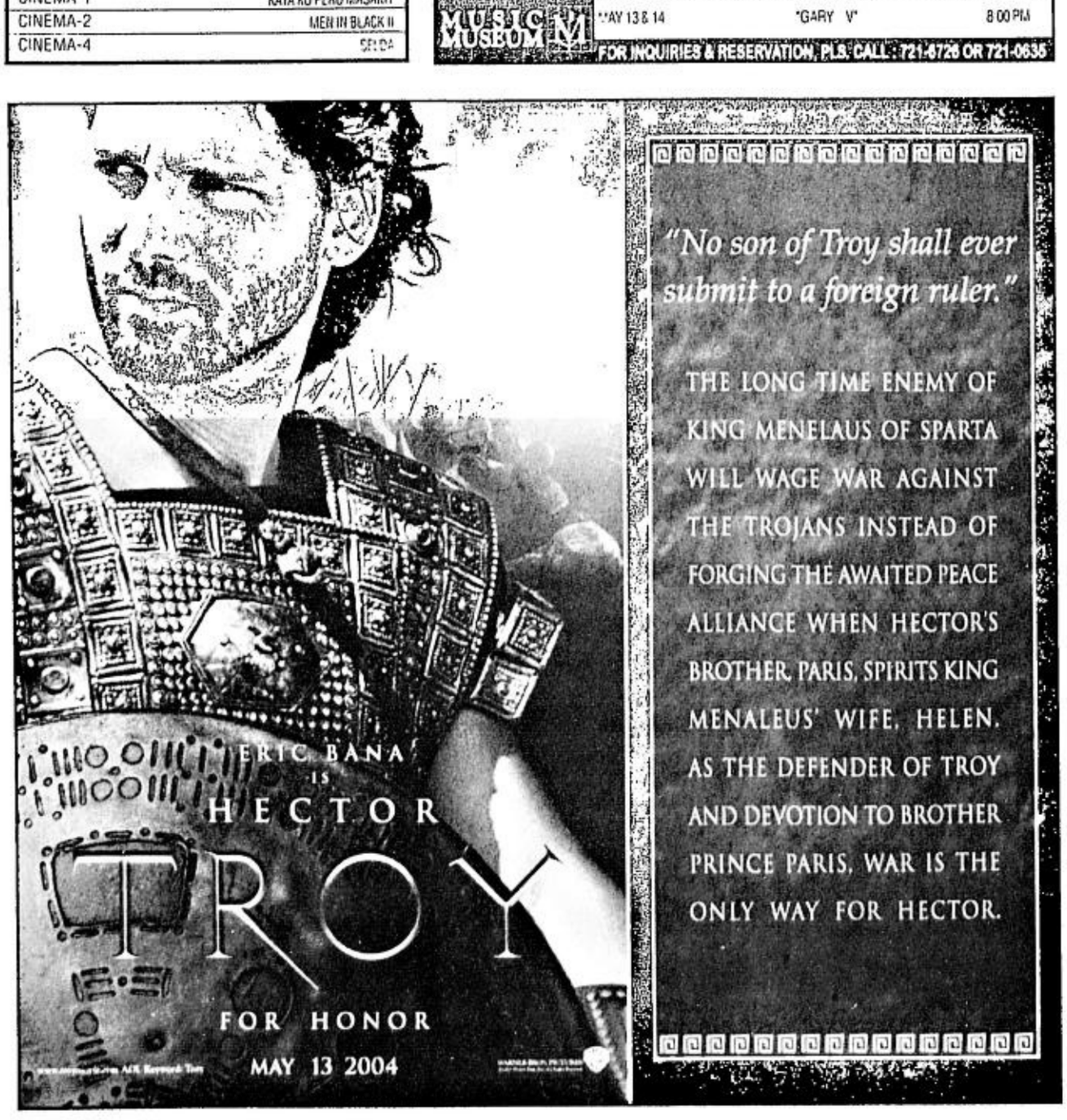
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	PATIENCE
CINEMA-1	ANIMAL
CINEMA-2	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SEDA





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VAN HELSING
10:55, 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30

2 I WILL SURVIVE — 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
3 HELLBOY — 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
4 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN — 10:25, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
5 VAN HELSING — 10:20, 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00
6 STARSKY AND HUTCH — 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
PM7 PAYCHECK — 11:35, 1:50, 4:05, 6:20, 8:35, 10:30
8 SCHOOL OF ROCK — 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30, 10:30
9 THE WHOLE TEN YARDS — 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
10 MAN ON FIRE — 10:15, 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55

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Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA

526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1 VAN HELSING — 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
2 HELLBOY — 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
3 SCHOOL OF ROCK — 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
4 STARSKY AND HUTCH — 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
5 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN — 11:15, 1:05, 2:55, 4:45, 6:35, 8:25, 10:00
6 MAN ON FIRE — 10:40, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40
7 I WILL SURVIVE — 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

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1 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN — 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2 VAN HELSING — 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 11:30
3 VAN HELSING — 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 11:30
4 MAN ON FIRE — 10:35, 1:40, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00
5 HELLBOY — 11:45, 1:40, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00
6 STARSKY AND HUTCH — 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
PM7 SCHOOL OF ROCK — 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
8 I WILL SURVIVE — 12:30, 31:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW

Big R Supercenter
935-3229 / 31

1 VAN HELSING — 12:15, 3:05, 5:55, 8:45, 11:15
2 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN — 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:10
3 MAN ON FIRE — 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:10
4 STARSKY AND HUTCH — 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30
5 SCHOOL OF ROCK — 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:10, 8:10
6 HELLBOY — 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30
PM7 I WILL SURVIVE — 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30
8 HAUNTED SPIRIT — 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:05, 8:1

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1 TWISTED
2 VAN HELSING
3 I WILL SURVIVE
4 THE UNINVITED

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1 VAN HELSING
2 I WILL SURVIVE
3 SORUM
4 MAN ON FIRE

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA

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1 SCHOOL OF ROCK
2 THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
3 I WILL SURVIVE
4 STARSKY AND HUTCH
5 HELLBOY

Big R Supercenter LIPA

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1 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 MAN OF FIRE
3 STARSKY AND HUTCH
4 THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
5 HELLBOY

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS

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1 THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
2 I WILL SURVIVE
3 STARSKY AND HUTCH
4 CHECK-INN
5 HELLBOY

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS

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1 MAN ON FIRE
2 SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 I WILL SURVIVE
4 SORUM
5 VAN HELSING
6 VAN HELSING

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1 VAN HELSING
2 HELLBOY
3 STARSKY AND HUTCH
4 HAUNTED SPIRIT
5 SCHOOL OF ROCK
6 I WILL SURVIVE

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1 HELLBOY
2 PETER PAN
3 TAKING LIVES
4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 PAYCHECK
6 THE UNINVITED

ILOILO

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1 HELLBOY
2 THE UNINVITED
3 TAKING LIVES
4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 I WILL SURVIVE
6 PAYCHECK

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Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2004
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

WOODS characteristically clenches his fist after a birdie on the eighth green Friday. AFP

Tiger takes command

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Instead of worrying about continuing one streak, Tiger Woods gets to work on another one.

The last two times he played, Woods had to work hard in the second round simply to make the cut and extend his PGA Tour record. That's what made Friday at the Wachovia Championship such a refreshing change.

Not only did Woods make it 122 cuts in a row, he rode a hot putter at sun-baked Quail Hollow for a 6-under 66 and a two-shot lead over Kirk Triplett, Notah Begay and Arron Oberholser.

Next up: Woods tries to make it 19 victories in a row when he has at least a share of the 36-hole lead.

"Considering the way I've been playing the last few tournaments, trying to come from so far back, I've always been one that would much rather be ahead than coming from behind," Woods said. "Hopefully, I can get out there tomorrow and play just the way I did today."

Woods made every putt inside 20 feet and one putt of nearly 50 feet for his best round since February. He had seven birdies in his first 11 holes, and wound up at 9-under 135.

Triplett, who opened with a course-record 64, kept pace with Woods until a poor tee shot into the thick rough on No. 16 and a missed 3-footer that led to double bogey and a 73.

Oberholser had a 68 and Begay, who played at Stanford with Woods, shot a 70.

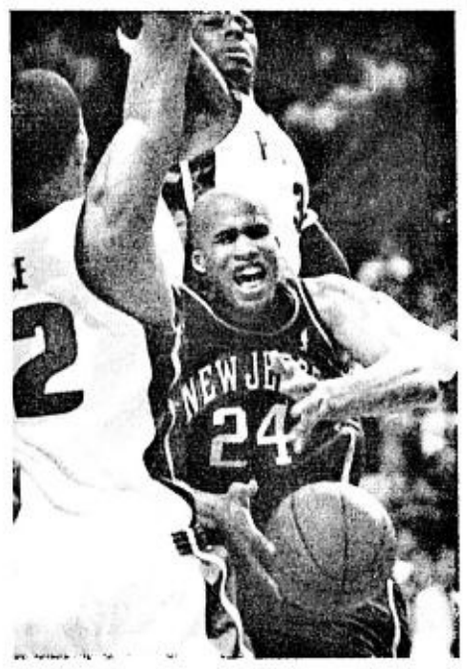
Woods in the lead going into the weekend has translated into a trophy the last five years. Nothing is that certain now, especially with the men behind him.

Vijay Singh, challenging Woods for No. 1 in the world, missed a half-dozen putts inside 18 feet on his back nine and had to settle for a 70, leaving him in the group only three shots behind.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson is five shots off Woods after a 70.

Stuart Appleby (72), Brett Quigley (72) and Joey Sindelar (69) joined Singh at 6-under 138.

Davis Love III birdied four of his last five holes for a 66, matching Woods for the best round of the day. *AP*


RICHARD Jefferson of the Nets loses the ball as he drives off the Pistons' Tayshaun Prince (left) and Ben Wallace. AFP

Pistons rip Nets, gain 2-0 spread

DETROIT, Michigan—Although it took a while for the Detroit Pistons to get going, they had no trouble stopping the New Jersey Nets again.

With a superb second half fueled by Chauncey Billups and Richard Hamilton, the Pistons roared to a 95-80 victory over the Nets on Friday and a 2-0 lead in their National Basketball Association playoff series.

"We might have just played our best half of basketball," Pistons coach Larry Brown said. "I don't think we can play any better than that."

The Pistons used their trademark defense in the third quarter and uncharacteristically sharp offence in the fourth quarter to put away the two-time defending conference champion Nets, who have looked very little like themselves in the first two games.

Billups and Hamilton scored 28 points each, with Billups adding a playoff career-high 13 assists as he outplayed Nets All-Star point guard Jason Kidd.

The underrated duo combined for 34 points in the second half, when Detroit exploded for 61 points.

After a lethargic first half that put them in a 46-34 hole, the Pistons unleashed their defense, forcing the Nets to miss 10 straight shots and commit seven turnovers during a 10-minute stretch in the third quarter.

"The third quarter was the turning point. We pulled ourselves out of the hole." *AFP*

Lakers: Stop Parker

LOS ANGELES—San Antonio's Tony Parker has emerged as an NBA star. So much so, the Los Angeles Lakers are being barraged with questions of how to slow down the 21-year-old French guard.

Commit a hard foul, Shaquille O'Neal says.

Maybe put Kobe Bryant on him, coach Phil Jackson says.

Give Gary Payton some help, Bryant says.

Parker shredded Payton, Derek Fisher and Bryant in the first two games of the Western Conference semifinals, getting 50 points and 14 assists. Games 3 and 4 will be played Sunday and Tuesday in Los Angeles. *AP*

Hurting Clijsters to give French Open a miss

BRUSSELS, Belgium—World No. 2 Kim Clijsters will pull out of the French Open because of a wrist injury and will rest for at least five weeks.

Clijsters was the runner-up in 2003 at Roland Garros, where play starts on May 24. *AP*

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Sunday BIZ

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

FOR PRESIDENT

Business folk talk about their votes

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

OVER THE weekend we sent out a text survey to about 30 executives asking them, "Without revealing whom you'll vote for, can you explain your vote?" The following replied and most still opted to name their choices.

Jose A. Concepcion III, president and CEO, RFM Corp.

CONCEPCION

Ever since, I have been very vocal in preferring President Macapagal-Arroyo to win in the coming election (please note that this is a personal position and not our company's position as our company has to stay non-partisan).

A GMA win will be good for the country. On top of GMA being capable, hardworking and the most experienced in facing the many challenges of a Presidency, it is important that we have a CEO for the country who understands and has the political will to solve the problems that our country has, such as the issue on budget deficit and foreign debt level.

The business sector needs her for continuity—continuity in economic reforms, keeping the growth momentum and inducing further investors' confidence that would spell greater employment and income opportunities for all Filipinos. It is essential for businessmen to see no radical change in policies. Our country has suffered enough of the boom and bust cycle that goes with the changes in the quality of leaders we had, and what we need is a sustained run-up towards economic modernization. With her win, the country would now have an even chance to come back and look forward to a brighter future.

With a fresh mandate from the people and no further interest in a reelection, I believe she would be in a better position to implement tough measures to ensure good reforms. As she promised, we look forward to having the political system changed towards a parliamentary form of government that will make the country more progressive. With a new mandate, we know that GMA would just like to be remembered as one of the presidents who was able to make the Philippines move forward.

Jose L. Cuisia, president, Philamlife.

CUISIA

I would vote on the basis of capability, character, moral principles of the candidate, his/her love of country rather than self, and ability to lead and inspire.

Jaime C. Laya, chair emeritus, KPMG Laya, Mananghaya

LAYA

I guess I'll vote for the candidate with vision, leadership and managerial skill and most of all integrity.

Danny Antonio, Phoenix Land Inc.

GMA. I believe she will go for posterity. She has the potentials and the push to do this. She now has the chance.

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BERMUDEZ

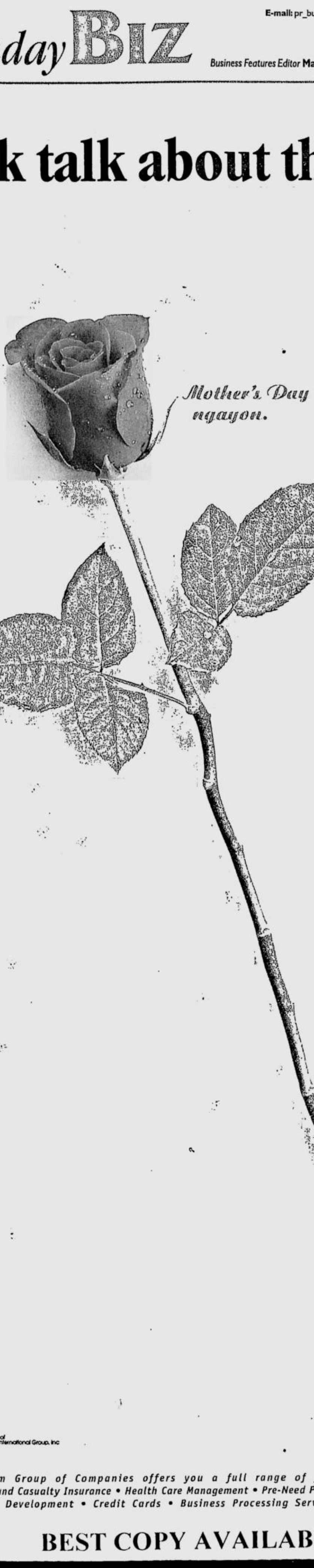
I will vote for the candidate who has a sterling record as a public servant regardless of his ranking in the survey today or his state of health. I will not vote for anyone who is evil, even if he is the lesser evil. My votes is an expression of a moral choice, not a bet on the "winnable."

LIMCAOCO

Helen Limcaoco, owner, The Little Gym

The man I'm voting for was very successful in his past government positions, is moral but not steeped into righteousness, has integrity and courage of conviction, has a concrete vision of where the country must be and doesn't worship pop-

BUSINESS/B5



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SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2004

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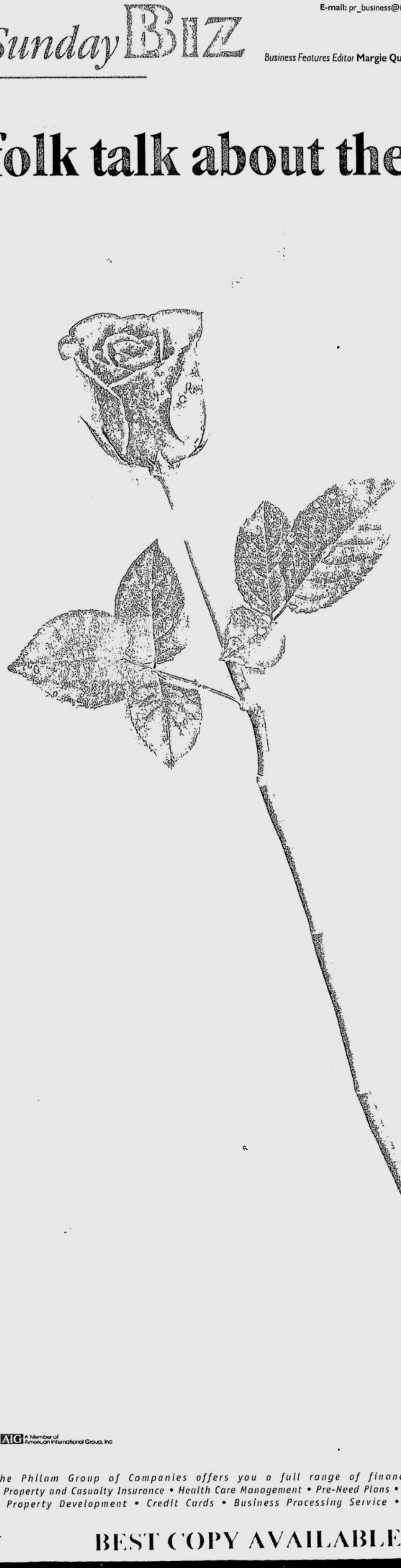

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Bank's goal to become profitable carries a twist

LIKE most firms, the Philippine Veterans Bank's primary purpose is to achieve a reasonable return on investment (ROI) for its investors or owners, and thereby help ensure its continued growth and existence.

However, there is a slightly different dimension to this bank's profit motivation.

As part of its charter, Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) provides 20 percent of its net income yearly to programs for the benefit and welfare of Filipino World War II veterans, their widows or heirs.

There are still about 100,000 World War II veterans, mostly in their 80s and 90s. They and their fallen comrades' deeds and sacrifices for the country have been largely forgotten.

PVB chair Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo

PVB president and CEO Ricardo Balbido

Veterans' needs

Philippine Veterans Bank's contributions are given to the Board of Trustees for the Veterans of World War II (BTVWWII). These are being wisely made to support two major initiatives, to address the pressing needs of our WW II veterans today. Among these are:

The Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) Out-Patient Center in Taguig, a modern medical facility that provides free medicine, medical and dental care to elderly veterans, conceived to decongest the government-run Veterans Memorial Medical Center or VMMC.

The other is the VFP War Museum, Library and Archives, a repository of war memorabilia and a state-of-the-art showcase of the veterans' heroism so that today's generation will continue to nurture the freedom we now all enjoy.

"Our goal has always been to make the most profits for our shareholders as we can. The bigger our net earnings, the bigger our contribution for our World War II veterans. This also guides our business decisions in terms of income sources and investments," says PVB president and CEO Ricardo A. Balbido Jr.

The opposite can also mean more than just a net loss.

"Indeed, the saying, banking with a cause, is now given new meaning for this is not just a corporate social responsibility program, or a nice add-on to our corporate image but it is the bank's very reason for being," adds Balbido.

With this added dimension, the pressure on Balbido, who joined the bank in Janaury 2001, and his management team to deliver profits is considerably more compared to other firms.

The bank has been professionalizing its ranks with intensified training activities and hiring seasoned banking executives to help grow the business. The bank has also been upgrading its information technology (IT) systems to expand and improve its capacity to manage its government and private account portfolios.

Challenges

The challenges remain great however. Apart from the 20 percent given to the BTVWWII, the bank has provided direct cash dividends also to preferred shareholders who are also World War II veterans and their heirs.

"The bank provides about P24 million yearly to pay the preferred dividends. This is the challenge for PVB to work hard to increase its profits each year. It's essentially the only way we can help and alleviate the plight of our veterans," says Miguel Villa-Real, AVP for corporate communications.

In the recent past, Philippine Veterans Bank has been performing fairly well. For 2003, PVB achieved a net profit of P227.9 million, up 10 percent from the previous year. In the same period, the bank's total assets grew by 6.3 percent to P15.1 billion. Philippine Veterans Bank is adequately capitalized with a total capital fund of P3.6 billion as of Dec. 31, 2003 with a capital-adequacy ratio of 42 percent, way above the BSP minimum requirement of 10 percent.

A brief history

Filipino lawmakers in the 1950s created the Reparations Law (RA 1789) which lay the groundwork for the creation of Philippine Veterans Bank. Japan's repatriation agreement with the Philippines involved Japan's payment of some of $20 million in cash, P5 million in capital goods and $10 million in services. RA 1789 effectively placed the cash reparations in a trust fund for the benefit of the veterans, their widows and orphans.

To the lawmakers at the time, the best option seemed clear: invest the funds into a bank that will service the veterans' needs and provide for their future. If the funds were distributed to the veterans at that time, with the prevailing dollar exchange rate of P2 to $1, it would have amounted to only P100 per veteran, widow or heir.

PVB was created in 1963 with the enactment of RA 3518 which became its charter. PVB was conceived and created as a private commercial bank owned by the veterans.

As the years moved by, it turns out that the original intent was not followed as subsequent amendments to RA 3518, through a series of presidential decrees issued during the martial law era disenfranchised the veterans and they became PVB owners in name only. And, as history would later reveal, the bank fell prey to political excesses and mismanagement during that era.

PVB was closed in 1983 due to capital deficiency and was placed under receivership. This closure meant a great betrayal to the thousands of veterans from whose funds the bank was put up, and for whore interest the bank was supposed to serve. After 23 long years, all the shareholders got was P28 in cash dividends.

Under the Aquino administration, the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) made a tremendous effort to re-open and rehabilitate the bank. After much intense lobbying and sacrifice, the VFP succeeded in convincing lawmakers and regulatory bodies to re-open PVB through RA 7169, and restored the original spirit and intent of the bank's charter.

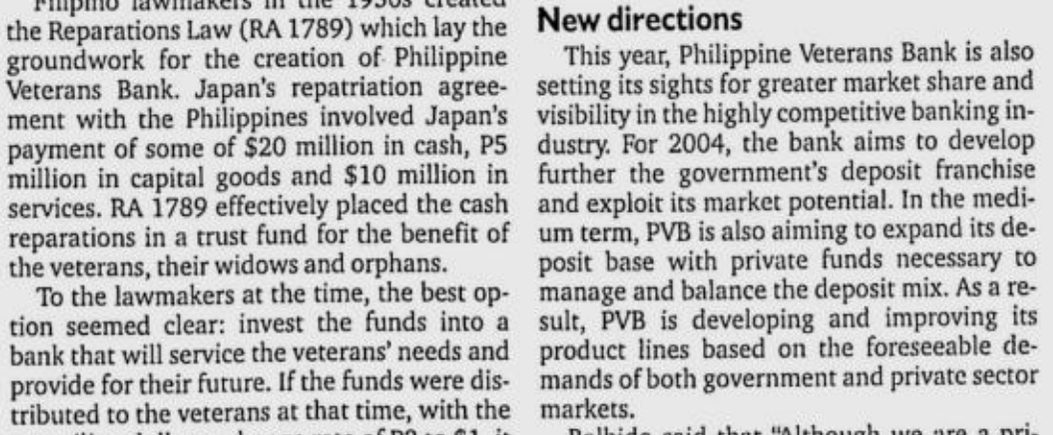
A figure behind the bank's reopening is VFP president Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo, chair of Philippine Veterans Bank. Colonel De Ocampo is a recognized and multi-awarded WWII veteran as a commanding officer of the famed Hunters Division.

Once more, the veterans were given the right as owners and to elect the bank's board members from among them and thereby determine the bank's future direction. On May 6, 1992; the Central Bank of the Philippines granted PVB the authority to operate as a private commercial bank. Three months later, then President Fidel V. Ramos symbolically opened the bank as it opened its doors once again to the banking public. As a gesture of thanks to the veterans' sacrifices for the country, the Philippine government appointed PVB as one of its authorized depository banks.

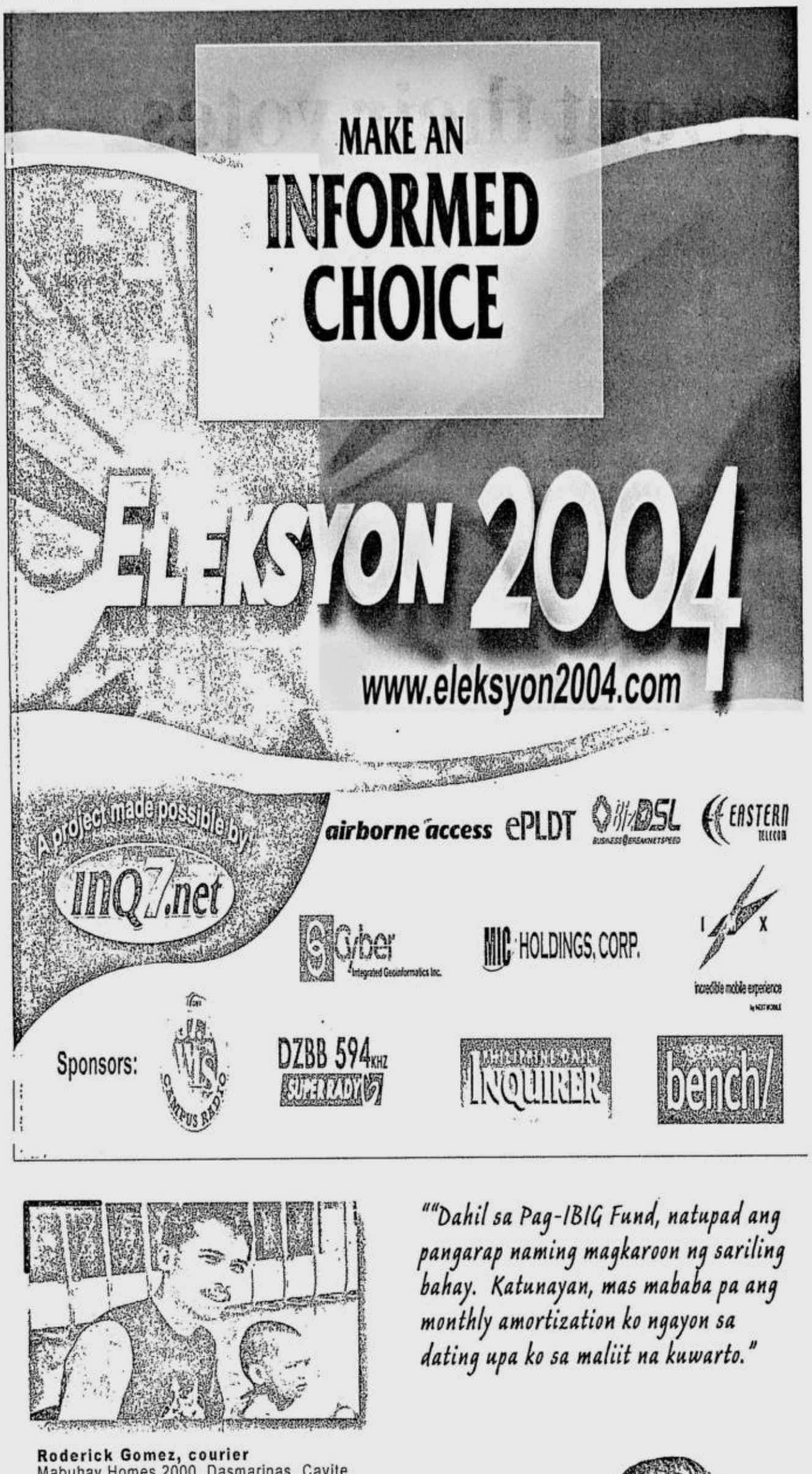
New directions

This year, Philippine Veterans Bank is also setting its sights for greater market share and visibility in the highly competitive banking industry. For 2004, the bank aims to develop further the government's deposit franchise and exploit its market potential. In the medium term, PVB is also aiming to expand its deposit base with private funds necessary to manage and balance the deposit mix. As a result, PVB is developing and improving its product lines based on the foreseeable demands of both government and private sector markets.

Balbido said that "Although we are a private commercial bank, we have this distinct advantage of accepting government funds unlike other private banks. We are therefore broadening our product lines and identifying new services such as LGU financing, trust and other fee-based financial services."



PVB'S ANNUAL stockholders meeting



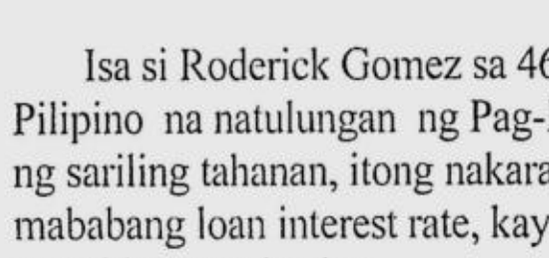
"Dahil sa Pag-IBIG Fund, natupad ang pangarap naming magkaroon ng sariling bahay. Katunayan, mas mababa pa ang monthly amortization ko ngayon sa dating upa ko sa maliit na kuwarto."

Roderick Gomez, courier
Mabuhay Homes 2000, Dasmarinas, Cavite
P1,800 monthly amortization, 15-year term

Isa si Roderick Gomez sa 46,499 na empleyadong Pilipino na natulungan ng Pag-IBIG Fund na magkaroon ng sariling tahanan, itong nakaraang taon. Dahil sa mababang loan interest rate, kayang-kaya bayaran ang monthly amortization.

Ang housing loan interest rates ng Pag-IBIG ay ang pinakamababa ngayon sa merkado, mula 6% hanggang 12% bawat taon lamang, depende sa halaga ng iyong nautang.

Ito ang sagot ng pamunuan ni PRESIDENT GLORIA sa kahilingan ng marami nating kababayan – isang programa sa pabahay na abot-kaya ng lahat.



Pag-IBIG Fund President and CEO, Atty. Mira Quimbo, kasama si President GLORIA

Si GMA at Pag-IBIG Fund, katulong n'yo sa kinabukasan.

http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph

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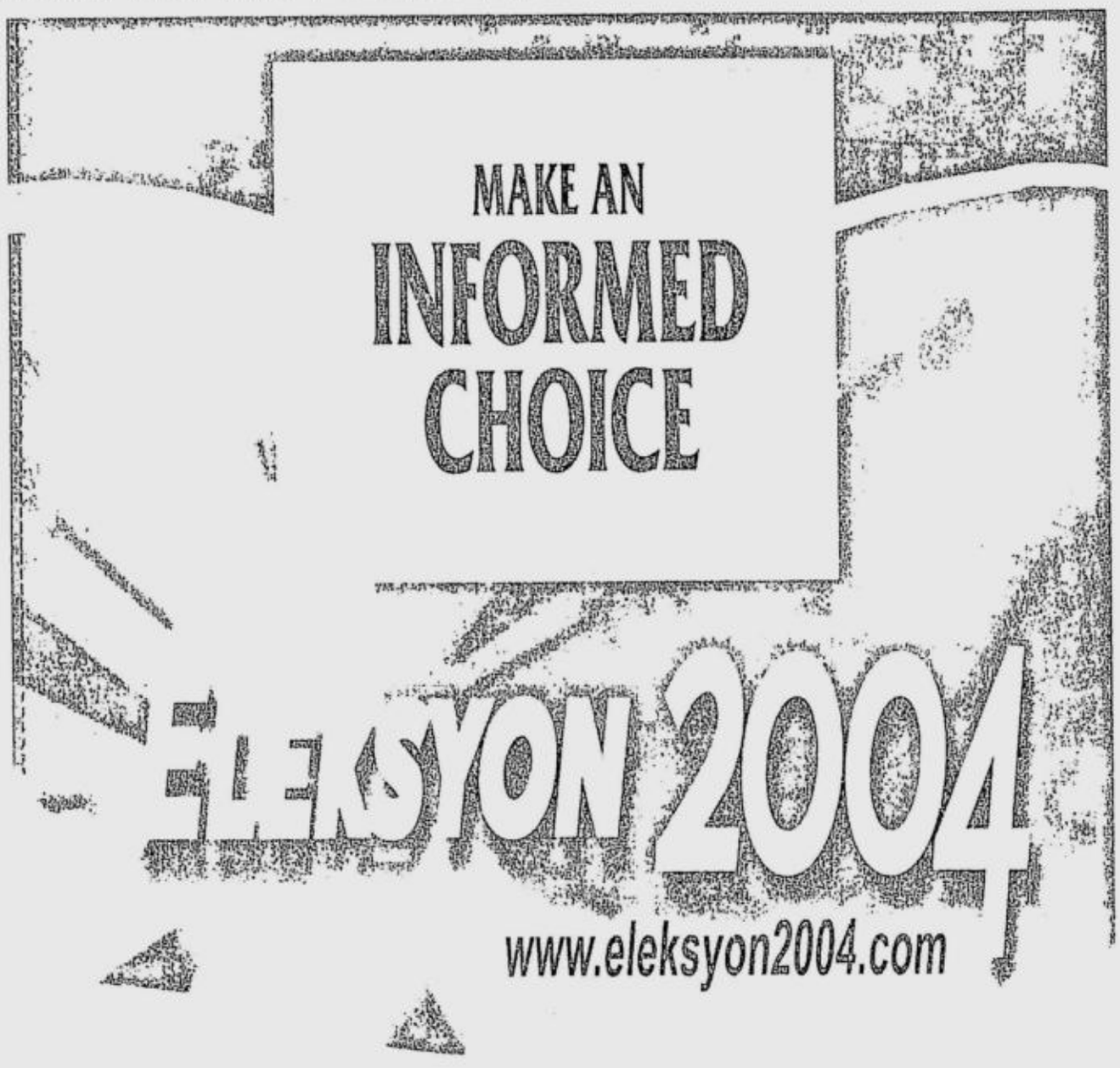
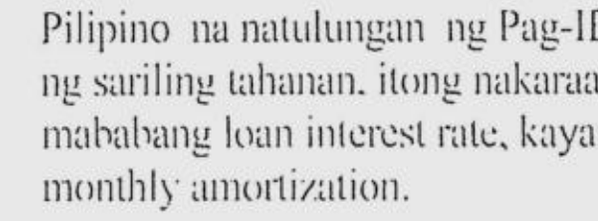
Bank's goal to become profitable carries a twist

LIKE most firms, the Philippine Veterans Bank's primary purpose is to achieve a reasonable return on investment (ROI) for its investors or owners, and thereby help ensure its continued growth and existence.





"Dahil sa Pag-IBIG Fund, natupad ang pangarap naming magkaroon ng sariling bahay. Katunayan, mas mababa pa ang monthly amortization ko ngayon sa dating upa ko sa maliit na kuwarto."

Roderick Gomez, courier
Malolos, Bulacan to Cavite
P1,900 monthly for 15 year term

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Si GMA at Pag-IBIG Fund, katulong n'yo sa kinabukasan.

http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph

However, there is a slightly different dimension to this bank's profit motivation.

As part of its charter, Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) provides 20 percent of its net income yearly to programs for the benefit and welfare of Filipino World War II veterans, their widows or heirs.

There are still about 100,000 World War II veterans, mostly in their 80s and 90s. They and their fallen comrades' deeds and sacrifices for the country have been largely forgotten.

Veterans' needs

Philippine Veterans Bank's contributions are given to the Board of Trustees for the Veterans of World War II (BTVWWII). These are being wisely made to support two major initiatives, to address the pressing needs of our WW II veterans today. Among these are:

The Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) Out-Patient Center in Taguig, a modern medical facility that provides free medicine, medical and dental care to elderly veterans, conceived to decongest the government-run Veterans Memorial Medical Center or VMMC.

The other is the VFP War Museum, Library and Archives, a repository of war memorabilia and a state-of-the-art showcase of the veterans' heroism so that today's generation will continue to nurture the freedom we now all enjoy.

"Our goal has always been to make the most profits for our shareholders as we can. The bigger our net earnings, the bigger our contribution for our World War II veterans. This also guides our business decisions in terms of income sources and investments," says PVB president and CEO Ricardo A. Balbido Jr.

The opposite can also mean more than just a net loss.

"Indeed, the saying, banking with a cause, is now given new meaning for this is not just a corporate social responsibility program, or a nice add-on to our corporate image but it is the bank's very reason for being," adds Balbido.

With this added dimension, the pressure on Balbido, who joined the bank in Janaury 2001, and his management team to deliver profits is considerably more compared to other firms.

The bank has been professionalizing its ranks with intensified training activities and hiring seasoned banking executives to help grow the business. The bank has also been upgrading its information technology (IT) systems to expand and improve its capacity to manage its government and private account portfolios.

Challenges

The challenges remain great however. Apart from the 20 percent given to the BTVWWII, the bank has provided direct cash dividends also to preferred shareholders who are also World War II veterans and their heirs.

"The bank provides about P24 million yearly to pay the preferred dividends. This is the challenge for PVB to work hard to increase its profits each year. It's essentially the only way we can help and alleviate the plight of our veterans," says Miguel Villa-Real, AVP for corporate communications.

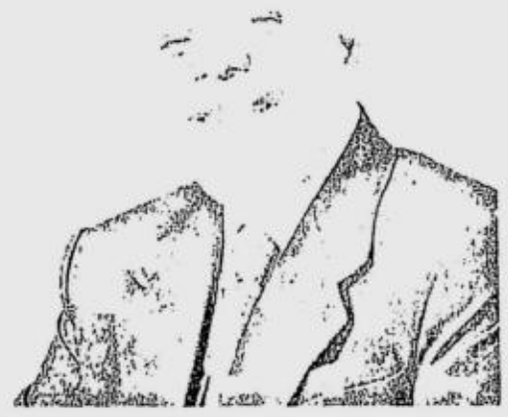
In the recent past, Philippine Veterans Bank has been performing fairly well. For 2003, PVB achieved a net profit of P227.9 million, up 10 percent from the previous year. In the same period, the bank's total assets grew by 6.3 percent to P15.1 billion. Philippine Veterans Bank is adequately capitalized with a total capital fund of P3.6 billion as of Dec. 31, 2003 with a capital-adequacy ratio of 42 percent, way above the BSP minimum requirement of 10 percent.

A brief history

Filipino lawmakers in the 1950s created the Reparations Law (RA 1789) which lay the groundwork for the creation of Philippine Veterans Bank. Japan's repatriation agreement with the Philippines involved Japan's payment of some of $20 million in cash, P5 million in capital goods and $10 million in services. RA 1789 effectively placed the cash reparations in a trust fund for the benefit of the veterans, their widows and orphans.

To the lawmakers at the time, the best option seemed clear: invest the funds into a bank that will service the veterans' needs and provide for their future. If the funds were distributed to the veterans at that time, with the prevailing dollar exchange rate of P2 to $1, it would have amounted to only P100 per veteran, widow or heir.

PVB was created in 1963 with the enactment of RA 3518 which became its charter. PVB was conceived and created as a private commercial bank owned by the veterans.



PVB chair Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo

PVB president and CEO Ricardo Balbido

As the years moved by, it turns out that the original intent was not followed as subsequent amendments to RA 3518, through a series of presidential decrees issued during the martial law era disenfranchised the veterans and they became PVB owners in name only. And, as history would later reveal, the bank fell prey to political excesses and mismanagement during that era.

PVB was closed in 1983 due to capital deficiency and was placed under receivership. This closure meant a great betrayal to the thousands of veterans from whose funds the bank was put up, and for whore interest the bank was supposed to serve. After 23 long years, all the shareholders got was P28 in cash dividends.

Under the Aquino administration, the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) made a tremendous effort to re-open and rehabilitate the bank. After much intense lobbying and sacrifice, the VFP succeeded in convincing lawmakers and regulatory bodies to re-open PVB through RA 7169, and restored the original spirit and intent of the bank's charter.

A figure behind the bank's reopening is VFP president Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo, chair of Philippine Veterans Bank. Colonel De Ocampo is a recognized and multi-awarded WWII veteran as a commanding officer of the famed Hunters Division.

Once more, the veterans were given the right as owners and to elect the bank's board members from among them and thereby determine the bank's future direction. On May 6, 1992; the Central Bank of the Philippines granted PVB the authority to operate as a private commercial bank. Three months later, then President Fidel V. Ramos symbolically opened the bank as it opened its doors once again to the banking public. As a gesture of thanks to the veterans' sacrifices for the country, the Philippine government appointed PVB as one of its authorized depository banks.

New directions

This year, Philippine Veterans Bank is also setting its sights for greater market share and visibility in the highly competitive banking industry. For 2004, the bank aims to develop further the government's deposit franchise and exploit its market potential. In the medium term, PVB is also aiming to expand its deposit base with private funds necessary to manage and balance the deposit mix. As a result, PVB is developing and improving its product lines based on the foreseeable demands of both government and private sector markets.

Balbido said that "Although we are a private commercial bank, we have this distinct advantage of accepting government funds unlike other private banks. We are therefore broadening our product lines and identifying new services such as LGU financing, trust and other fee-based financial services."

PVB'S ANNUAL stockholders meeting

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Presidential candidates' first jobs

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SOME 40 million Filipinos will vote tomorrow. Instead of the usual First Job feature of an executive, SundayBiz decided to take a look at the first occupation of the presidential candidates. Whether this will affect a voter's decision or not is up to them.

By Maricar Tolosa
PDI Research

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo started her professional career as a teacher at Assumption College where she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in economics in 1968. She would later teach at Ateneo de Manila University and University of the Philippines School of Economics and serve as chair of Assumption's Economics Department from 1984 to 1987.

Raul Roco

Raul Roco was appointed by Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. himself to take charge of the latter's senatorial campaign in the Bicol region in 1967, three years after their first meeting when Roco had just finished his law studies. Roco's job was to make Aquino No. 4 in the region, election results showed he was No. 2. A year later, he was head of the senator's legal staff and was the one to draft the "Study Now, Pay Later" scheme. He resigned two years later to run for delegate of the Constitutional Convention of 1971. He won and became the youngest Bicolano delegate.

Panfilo Lacson

After graduating from the Philippine Military Academy in 1971, Panfilo Lacson joined the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group where he would stay until 1986. His last assignment was deputy of Col. Rolando Abadilla, chief of Metrocom. He would also earn PC Metrocom Officer of the Year award in 1982.

Bro. Eddie Villanueva

From 1969-1972 and again in 1978 to 1979, Bro. Eddie was faculty member of his alma mater, Polytechnic University of the Philippines (formerly Philippine College of Commerce) teaching Economics and Finance. He would later become the longest sitting member of PUP's Board of Regents, having served from 1992 to 2002.

Fernando Poe Jr.

Forced to quit school due to poverty after the death of his actor-father Fernando Poe Sr., Fernando Poe Jr., first worked as a messenger of a film exchange outfit earning P18 each week. His first taste of showbiz was as a stunt double to Lilia Dizon's character in the 1950's movie "Simaron."

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 25, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 27, 2003
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2003
5. Approval of the 2003 Annual Report
6. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 27, 2003 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 26, 2004 will be entitled to notice of and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2004. Any proxies so received will be validated on May 20, 2004, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, March 5, 2004

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

Helping turn dreams into reality via IT

By Cynthia H. Evidente
Contributor

SOME 15 years ago, a colony of urban squatters occupying close to one hectare of prime lot in Makaturing, Mandaluyong City dreamed of owning their own land and the right to decent lives.

Threatened in the late '80s by high-rise condominium projects that almost saw the demolition of their shanties, and the pressures of surviving and raising a family amidst unemployment, "*makipag-sapalaran*" best described what life was all about.

Today, the 216 families residing in No. 81 Makaturing St. are proud landowners in their own right, having persevered as an organized unit under the Makaturing Neighborhood Association Inc.

Not only have they transformed their territory from a former quarry site into a decent neighborhood, but more importantly, they are in the process of acquiring their lots for a period of over 25 years under the national government's Community Mortgage Program (CMP) initiated in 1990.

Building on their hard won achievements, however, continues to be a challenge. States Delia S. Millona, MNAI President for the past three years, on what community leadership is about, "*Ikaw ang magulang. Lahat ng problema sa asosasyon, sa kabataan, sa iyo ilalapit.*" (You are the parent. Association members who have problems with their children will go to you.)

And notes MNAI Vice President Conrado Estinor Sr., "*Kabuhayan ang problema namin dito ... paano kumita. Trabaho ang wala.*" (Our problem is livelihood. There are no jobs.)

This is the reality of a striving community where less than ten percent of families are steady income earners as taxi or tricycle drivers, clerical or construction workers; where poverty continues to hamper access to even the most basic telephone service; and cell phones remain a luxury item beyond anyone's pocket.

Taking on the Makaturing challenge

For a struggling community like Makaturing where "employ-ability" is a factor of both Education and Computer or IT skills and literacy, the impact of exposing the youth, as well as community leaders, to hands-on computer experience and training cannot be underestimated.

Globe Telecom and Innove believe that investing in the community's youth who comprise over 50 percent of Makaturing's population is a definite move towards raising the level of their state in life.

Last March 15, Globe Telecom—along with members of the Ayala group of companies and in coordination with the Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP)—officially took on the task of "co-adopting" Makaturing under the integrated Kalahi ng Ayala program.

The integrated Kalahi ng Ayala brings together in one community the many successful outreach programs of corporate entities under Ayala. Assembled into a comprehensive package, these programs contribute their individual strengths to a "collective pot," thus creating impact through synergy given a common approach to help in the government's poverty alleviation programs.

For Globe Telecom and its subsidiary Innove Communications Inc., sharing their corporate resources and technological expertise have found expression in the setting up of a computer laboratory to benefit the youth and community leaders.

These comprise of the donation of two personal computers (with Internet access), two Globelines connections with free Monthly Service Fees (with NDD and IDD capabilities), printer-scanner, and other computer paraphernalia. Also included are computer training courses within the year in coordination with Ayala Foundation Inc. (AFI).

These are on top of the "sweat equity" put-in for the day by some 20 Globe employees for the house rehabilitation of two partner families under the Habitat for Humanity program, as well as financial contributions for the house builds.

Parallel to these are similar efforts by other Ayala companies, among these, the provision of two water hydrants by Manila Water Co. (MWC), a micro-lending program by the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), MWC and AFI to provide small livelihood loans to unemployed women and youth, and a solid waste management program by AFI to further reduce residual garbage in the area.

Significantly, MNAI leaders confirm that to-

HELPING / B4

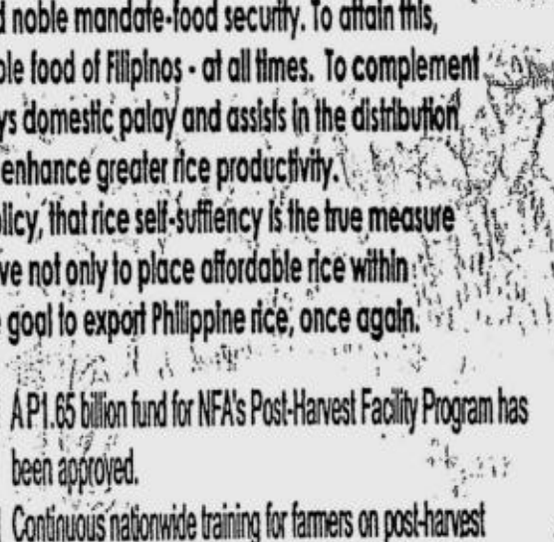
Food Security is National Security

The National Food Authority exists on a distinct and noble mandate-food security. To attain this, it ensures the availability, accessibility of Rice-the staple food of Filipinos - at all times. To complement and intensify this mandate, the NFA aggressively buys domestic palay and assists in the distribution of certified hybrid seeds and fertilizer to enhance greater rice productivity.

Guided by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's policy, that rice self-suffiency is the true measure of food security, NFA is a vital partner in the drive not only to place affordable rice within reach of every Filipino, but in the forefront of the goal to export Philippine rice, once again.

- Increased procurement budget from P1billion in 2003 to P4 billion in 2004 with a target to buy 9.5 million bags of palay. (5.9 million bags were bought in 2003)
- 530 buying stations, collection centers and mobile teams to accept palay deliveries from individual farmers and farmer organizations
- 326 NFA-owned and 172 leased warehouses nationwide for buffer stocking
- 50 rolling stores; 22,723 accredited outlets; 1,686 Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke selling NFA rice at P16/kg.
- Distribution of rice and six other basic commodities in 2,823 Targeted Rice Distribution Program (TRDP) outlets covering 888 municipalities and 3,748 barangays and benefiting at least 540,000 Filipinos; 76 rice outlets in 15 highly depressed areas in Metro Manila; and 3,134 outlets under the Coconut Farmers Food Access Program (CFFAP) and benefiting 10,629 coconut farmers.
- A P1.65 billion fund for NFA's Post-Harvest Facility Program has been approved.
- Continuous nationwide training for farmers on post-harvest technology and entrepreneurship.

We are in every grain of rice



NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
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http://www.nfa.gov.ph

40-year-old leather retailer goes into direct selling

MANELS, the 40-year-old makers of leather goods and bags recently adopted a new strategy to expand its market.

The chain inked a tie-up with Avon, one of the world's biggest direct-selling firm for the latter to sell leather good.

These two brands are backed by years of selling indisputable quality in products and services.

Manels, a pioneering company in the Philippine leather goods industry has notched more than 30 years of craftsmanship and world-class service to most major companies in the hotel, pharmaceutical and airline sectors.

For 30 years now, Manels has been a leading supplier of corporate essentials ranging from bags, wallets, desk accessories, organizers, utility kits, belts, key chains, safety shoes and other small leather accessories.

Avon on one hand is a community of more than two million representatives selling products in 131 countries with a track record of 114 years of successful direct-selling.

Unknown to many, Manels has been supplying Avon Philippines with their promotional items and leather accessories that grace the pages of their catalogues and sold under the Avon name.

"For 10 years now, Manels has been our most reliable supplier of tote bags, belts and wallets.

Quantities ordered from them can run up to as much as 12,500 pieces per item and can total to up to 200,000 for all combined orders," informed Bing Salazar, Avon's supply chain manager.

EMILI Barba, Avon's engineer; Manuel M. Saggaoat, Manel's chair, and Bing Salazar, Avon's product development engineer.

"And not once did Manels fail our expectation in quality, reliability and commitment."

"The Manels people have passion for their work. I cannot remember an instance where they have deliberately failed our expectations. Whenever we need samples for presentations and photo shoots, they are always on call. Trendsetters' and national requirements are always served within an acceptable period.

This led to an eventual tie-up with Manels. Since Avon does not have a genuine leather goods line of its own, we deem it a productive venture to carry the Manels line of leather goods because it is already an established leader and authority in the leather industry. Very much in the same league as the other brand names we carry."

"This is an exciting time for our company," said Manny Siggaoat, co-founder and chair of Manels. "For the very first time, Avon will be carrying a Filipino brand alongside international brand names like Fila and Timex. I'm very proud to say that our company is accredited under Social Accountability 8000, an industry watchdog that oversees strict compliance to labor laws and safety requirements set forth by the committee, very similar to ISO 2000. Two years ago, they audited our factory and offices and we got their invaluable stamp of approval. This accreditation resulted into a higher level of dynamism in our company in terms of work ethics and corporate responsibility."

"It has opened new windows of opportunities for Manels and this tie-up with Avon is a benchmark of our company's continuing growth as a leader in the leather manufacturing sector." With the Avon tie-up, Manels fine leather goods will then be available right in the consumer's living room as a direct market seller, adding yet another feather in its already impressive cap of success. By the 2nd quarter, Avon will be exporting Manels to its Asian market as regionalization of marketing efforts goes full blown by the year 2005.

"I stand proud at seeing Manels belts, bags and wallets as a lifestyle essential of every Filipino and our Asian brothers made possible by Avon's global vision."

And on its 40th year, the company that has set the standard for the rest of the leather industry lives up to its culture of excellence with its tie-up with the giant in direct marketing.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2238 Series of 2004

WITH their donation of computer (with Internet access) and Globelines facilities for Makaturing, Globe and Innove hope to equip the youth and community leaders with the needed skills to raise their level of employability and general well-being.

Helping turn dreams into reality via IT

From page B3

day, only a minimum of young kids from ages 5 to 10 have actual computer knowledge (beyond "*palaro-laro*" or tinkering). Likewise, less than 50 percent of the high school/college students are familiar with computers, with access obtained mainly from school or nearby Internet shops within walking distance of the community.

ICT benefits

While medium- to long-term benefits of the computer facilities have yet to be seen, immediate and direct benefits to having a computer laboratory for multi-media learning have started to be felt.

For Fel Jane Tumacas, a 19-year-old BS Architecture student at the Rizal Technological Universiy (RTU), having the computer on hand has meant easier Internet access. Research work on school topics can now be done without the usual one-week waiting time to use the school's computer facilities.

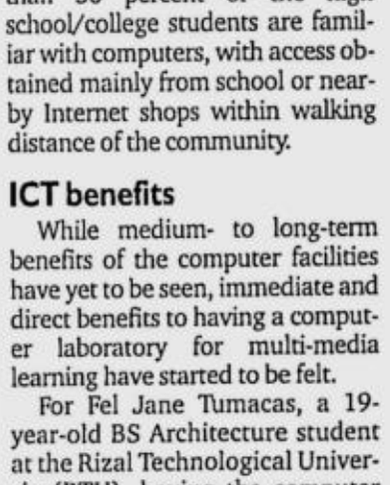
Jennifer Gilao, an 18-year-old BSBA Management student finds merit in augmenting Science and Math-related school lectures with actual Internet research.

And for parents in the community, having the computer facilities right in their neighborhood has translated to their peace of mind, knowing that their children no longer have to visit the nearby Internet shops until midnight just to finish up on school research work and assignments.

The Department of Education (DepEd) recognizes the need to set up computer laboratories in the over 4,600 public high schools nationwide as a means to raise the level of competitive skills possessed by the potential members of the country's workforce.

Last March 25, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus issued Dept. Order No. 23, stating that all teachers and students in public high schools must have free access to the school's computer laboratory—its centralized multimedia learning resource center. This embodies the shift from teaching/learning about the technology (computer literacy) to teaching/learning with technology (integration of ICT in teaching/learning across all subjects).

(The author is currently head, Corporate Communications-PR Division of Globe Telecom.)



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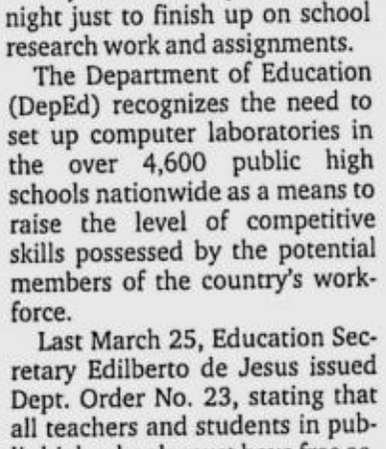

MILLONA

Taking the (nautical) road less traveled

By Clarissa S. Batino

IF CORY Aquino had flyovers and FVR had the independent power plants, then GMA has the Roro.

Add to that is that mouthful of a maritime infrastructure called the Strong Republic Nautical Highway or SRNH that complements these roll-on, roll-off vessels.

Roro ships are equipped to accommodate cars, SUVs and even buses and six-wheeler trucks. But these could only dock on ports that have been expanded and modernized to handle their weight.

Together, the Roro and the improved ports comprise the Nautical Highway, a concept that dates back to the time of Marcos but was improved upon by GMA.

Skeptics easily dismiss these maritime facilities as nothing but political tools of the incumbent, what with her signature "Strong Republic" prefixed to what could have been a catchy two-word phrase, the "Nautical Highway," describing an ideal state of land and sea transport for a country with more than 7,000 islands.

But Alfonso Cusi, general manager of the Philippine Ports Authority could not afford to be a skeptic not only because he was appointed by GMA but also because he had spent years in the maritime business and believed that improvements made by this administration in the ports and water transport facilities are remarkable.

He cites for example that in the past, the only way to get to Boracay from Manila was by plane to Aklan or Caticlan in Leyte. With the nautical highway, you can get there, perhaps half a day later, but in a much cheaper way.

Cusi estimates that for a group of four or five bringing its own vehicle up to Caticlan, each passenger would spend only about P600 compared to air fare that costs six times more.

Lone travelers, taking public transport all the way would pay between P650 and P750, depending on what he takes. A Philtranco bus from Cubao to Caticlan costs P748 each while hopping on different buses and ferries would be cheaper. The boat ride from Caticlan to Boracay is about P50 per person.

Those who prefer to chart their own destiny to Boracay could take the aircon bus to Batangas where the fare is about P120 per person then board the Roro from Batangas to Calapan for P127.

From Calapan in Mindoro, one could take an aircon van worth P110 each to Roxas, the port in Oriental Mindoro, according to Raul Santos, assistant general manager.

From the Roxas port, one must take the Roro boat to Caticlan at P210 each, added Santos.

But most who have tried the Roro balk at the inconvenience of waiting for the next boat trip that would take them to the next port although they swear by the basic amenities of clean toilets and air conditioned rooms aboard the ships.

To plan ahead and avoid the hassles of missing the one and only Roro ship to a planned destination, better check with the PPA at 527-8381 or log on to their website for the trip schedules.

The PPA chief says that like other start-up ventures, the SRNH or the Nautical Highway faces many birthing pains, foremost is the usual chicken-and-egg issue of supply and demand.

Should Roro ships service routes where volume is thin or should they wait for demand to go up before they drop anchors on these ports?

Currently, the Batangas to Mindoro and the Batangas to Caticlan routes are the only ones most served by Roro ships. Other ports are lucky if one Roro vessel passes by in a day.

Cusi admits to subscribing to the Field of Dreams philosophy—the "build it and they will come" credo.

The PPA chief says that after the government launched the Nautical Highway, activities increased in the areas covered.

In the Roxas-Caticlan link, for example, passenger number and Roro vehicles grew by an average of 375 percent while total cargo volume increased by an average of 128 percent from April to July 2003.

To make it more affordable, PPA claims it slashed the tariff rates in Roro vessels by as much as 60 percent.

Currently, the Nautical Highway links the the provinces of Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Batangas in Luzon.

In the Visayas, one could hop from Aklan, Antique, Iloilo, Capiz, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, Bohol, Cebu, Guimaras and Siquijor. Linked up in Mindanao are Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Norte and Zamboanga del Norte.

Cusi says that the government would have to spend about P2 billion for port improvement this year. He says Boracay and Mindoro ports still need an upgrade that would total about P170 million.

Business folk talk...

From page B1

ulist policies like the two front runners do.

Art Aguilar, chief operating officer, Victorias Milling Co. Inc.

GMA. Continuity and she's for parliamentary and federal government.

Albert Garcia, Garsworth Consulting

GMA for continuity's sake. The country can't afford a change of government. Best of a bad bunch.

Michael Romero, president Harbour Centre

I am voting for the one whom I think will give my children a better future because the next six years will not just reshape our economy but also the generation of our children. The next president should be dependable enough to lead the next generation.

Peter Coyiuto, president, First Life Insurance

My vote is for the leader who professes the qualities of a good provider of economic opportunities especially to the poor, protective of the well-being of the nation and committed to the ideals of governance. My vote is an independent choice, free from peer or group influence.

Diosdado Salvador, former president of Johnson and Johnson Asean group of companies

I'm quite tired of professional and traditional politicians running the country to the ground. We can't risk electing totally unprepared persons as well. Discipline, education and integrity have lost their meaning. So I will vote for the person who I think is capable of giving back to the country some of these ideals.

Cebu-based entrepreneur who asked to be unnamed

Bro. Eddie Villanueva. Anyway he is qualified and also because I do not want to vote for the lesser evil. In two years, several close friends of theirs became billionaires.

Jun Villanueva, managing director, Microwarehouse

I'm voting for GMA but my heart is for Ping. The more I listen the more I like what he says.

Grace Gupana, founder, ABS bitter herbs

Leadership centered on Christ is one of the greatest keys for it can neither build nor destroy a family, a business or a nation. *Bathala na ang gagawa sa* election because I believe in my heart His promise to heal our broken land with the following conditions. If my people are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.(2 Chronicles 7:14)

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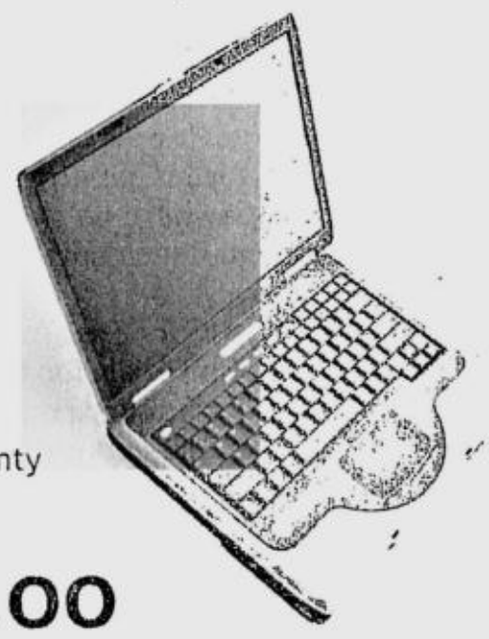

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PMAP VOTER SCORECARD

MAGSURI BAGO PUMILI

(A Thinking Tool for Voters)

This voter scorecard is a result of a year-long study conducted by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines, using an accepted and widely-used strategic leadership framework and data derived from interviews with "job content experts"

(former and current top government officials, including former presidents of the Philippines, political scientists and analysts, representatives from the Malacañang press corps, labor and civil society etc...)

Roles of the President	*Roles Defined*	Possible Predictors of Future Performance	GMA	PING	FPJ	ROCO	EDDIE V.
Navigator - Strategist	*Steers the ship of state to arrive at the "destination" of a just & humane society through effective strategies to solve problems and take advantage of opportunities.*	1. Provides a clear & detailed plan to address poverty and our major problems (budget deficit, infrastructure gap, impending power shortage, WTO commitments, education, etc..)					
		2. Has demonstrated the ability to work through difficult political, economic, and social issues					
		3. Past success in dealing with crisis situations					
Mobilizer	*Leads the executive department. Proactively builds alliances with concerned sectors to achieve complex objectives and build consensus.*	1. Past success in the management of an organization (preferably similar in complexity to the bureaucracy)					
		2. Past success in building good relationships with and influence over groups to diffuse resistance and achieve goals					
Servant Leader	*Serves the people with a genuinely caring heart. Is a good example for all to follow.*	1. Genuinely cares for the welfare of the Filipino people					
		2. Displays humility and reaches out to all sectors					
		3. Has developed good habits of study & work					
Captivator	*Inspires unity, trust & optimism among the people. Moves people away from cynicism. Builds trust in the presidency and the government.*	1. Understands the conditions and hopes of the ordinary Filipino					
		2. Inspires optimism, in the future and trust in the government					
		3. Effectively partners with media to inform the public and build support for his/her advocacies or programs					
Guardian of National Wealth, Patrimony and the Rule of Law	*Ensures the long term health, security and prosperity of the nation and the people through principled action and the rule of law.*	1. Has shown integrity in private & public life					
		2. Displays sincerity and transparency when talking about matters that may affect the integrity of his/her government (campaign contributions, advisers etc..)					
		3. Takes a clear and unequivocal stand on current controversial issues (population growth, PPA etc..)					
		4. Has a clear and detailed plan to address graft & corruption in the bureaucracy					
		5. Respects the rule of law					
		* For candidate with public service experience: • Demonstrated will to make politically unpopular but sound decisions • Appointed honest & competent people to government • Has a good track record in establishing peace & order and upholding the law • Demonstrated success in fighting corruption					

Rating Scale: (1) Not Evident (2) Slightly Evident (3) Evident (4) Very Evident (NK) Not Enough Knowledge

Three presidential bets honored PMAP's invitation for a "job interview" and related experiences which indicated competencies in certain roles. Voters are encouraged to further evaluate the candidates in these and other roles based on other information they have about the candidates.

Senator Panfilo Lacson related successful programs which he says demonstrated his ability to lead men and manage people (Mobilizer role). He also described incidents where he showed political will in implementing programs he strongly believes in inspite of opposition from some sectors. Likewise, he cited incidents where he showed success in implementing programs to reform the police force (Guardian role).

Former Senator Raul Roco says that he is among those legislators who have passed the most number of substantive laws; an achievement which he says has demonstrated his skills for consensus-building. As Secretary of the Department of Education, he initiated procedures for work simplification and efficiency and cited a successful instance of breaking the bureaucratic gridlock in order to achieve objectives (Mobilizer role). As president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), during martial law, he defended the rule of law by championing the fight against Amendment 6. He also says he resisted vested interests as a legislator. As Secretary of the Department of Education, he successfully instituted procedures to stop corruption in the procurement of books (Guardian role).

As international president of the Jesus Is Lord Movement (JIL), Bro. Eddie says he led the movement in growing the organization, which now has branches in every province and in 30 countries and 30 branches of JIL colleges. He attributes this growth to management which is vision-oriented rather than personality-centered and to the use of modern management techniques. As a student activist, he brought together the different sectors into a coalition known as "Katipunang Makabayan ng Bulacan" and thus, demonstrated success in consensus-building and in providing inspiring leadership (Mobilizer and Captivator).

Complete results of the PMAP Presidential "Job Interviews" can be accessed at www.pmap.org.ph.

The Personnel Management Association of the Philippines is a 47-year old organization, with more than 1,000 corporate and individual members in Metro Manila and over 400 corporate and individual members in its 18 chapters all over the country.

PMAP is a member of the Philippine Movement for Good Governance.

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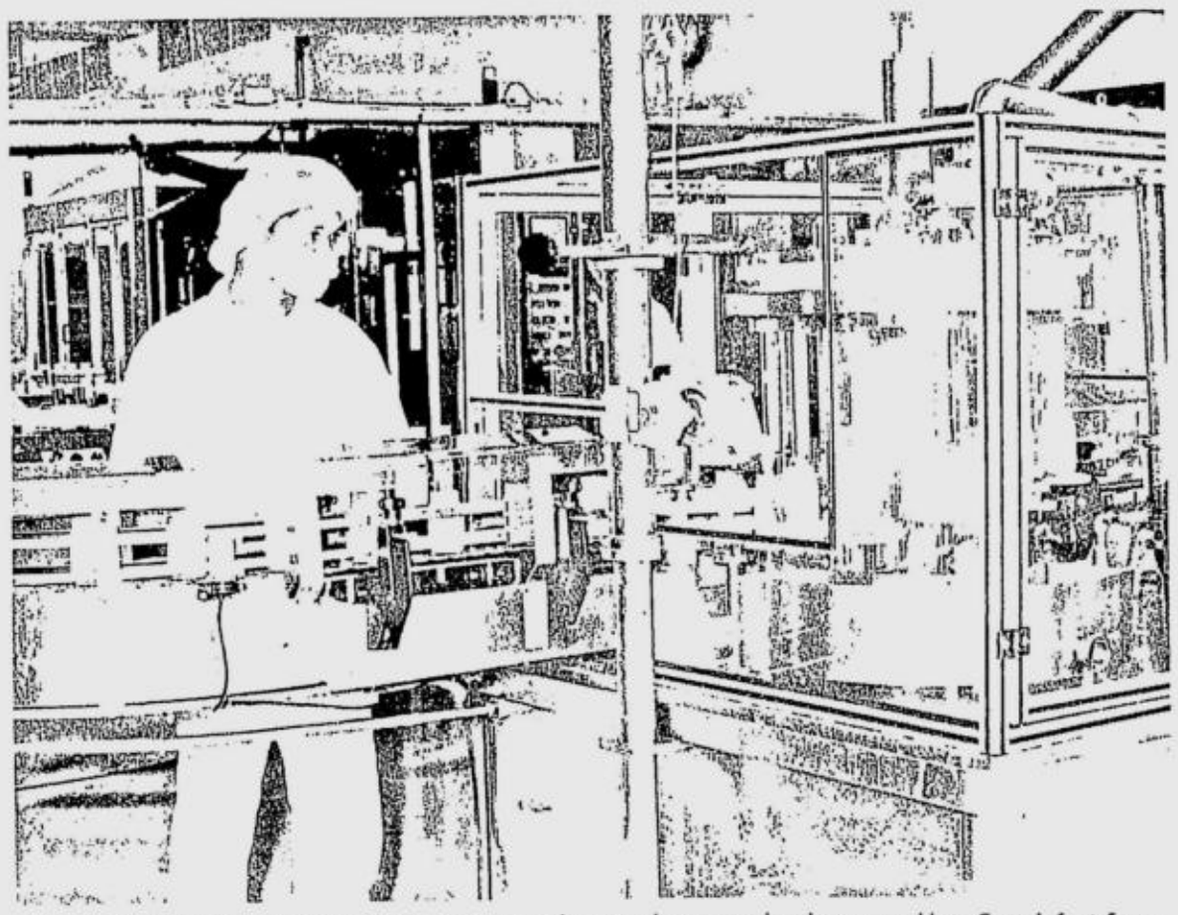
Listing the elements of a world-class factory

By Rene T. Domingo



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MANUFACTURING enterprises aiming for competitiveness through excellence would want to build and upgrade their plants and factories to "world class" status. But what is a world-class factory (WCF)? What is world-class manufacturing?

There is no standard way of grading and benchmarking factories globally.

While awards and certification programs rate and categorize company performance, these are focused on one performance indicator, too broad to be useful in rating factories, or very industry-specific. Moreover, many of these rate companies rather than factories.

For instance, ISO 9000, Deming, Juran and Malcolm Baldrige Awards, Six Sigma just focus on quality management systems, ISO 14000 on environment management systems, and TPM (Total Production Maintenance) Award on maintenance, housekeeping and overall equipment efficiency or OEE. These programs are open to all industries, primary processing, manufacturing as well as service, and have practically the same criteria and standards regardless of the industry of the applicant or nominee.

In other words, they miss, by intent or design, the very essence and uniqueness of manufacturing operations.

Good manufacturing practices

The GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) standard seems to be the closest to rating manufacturing performance. However, again, this standard was essentially designed for the food and drug industries and their packaging suppliers, to ensure safe and quality products and processes. GMP does not stress productivity, yield, cycle time reduction and other non-quality and non-safety related indicators of excellent factory performance.

QS 9000 is another integrated manufacturing standard, but it is somewhat industry specific and designed more for accrediting parts makers and suppliers of car manufacturers, particularly in the area of quality.

Let us first define a factory. This paper will focus on factories of manufacturing industries.

The manufacturing industry is also known as a secondary industry that gets and processes raw materials from the primary industry.

Primary industries are those that process extracted materials from nature and Mother Earth; their outputs are called primary materials or products like steel and other metals, glass, rubber, plastic, fuels, cement, flour and wood pulp.

The factories of primary industries usually run continuously. Nowadays they are highly automated and produce to stock.

In contrast, manufacturing factories produce discreet products like cars and TV sets out of primary raw materials or parts from other manufacturers. They may produce discontinuously and have the option to make to stock or forecast or to make to order. Another difference is that inventories in primary industries may be necessary and not indicators of "fat," while in secondary industries "leanness" in terms of inventory is usually a sign of efficiency. Also, low output variety in the primary industries is a given, while in secondary industries is it now considered a weakness. While we could also define WCF's in the primary industries and they do exist, this paper will only attempt to define a WCF in manufacturing, where there are more factories globally and more intense competition to become excellent.

Factory operations essentially consist of raw materials or parts procurement, parts manufacturing or processing, assembly subassembly and final assembly, packaging and shipping. This last stage—shipping that includes finished goods storage and outbound logistics—may or may not be controlled by factory management. The same can be said with procurement.

There may be several quality checks inside and between these operations.

Some factories have parts and product design capabilities. But most of the time, R&D is separate from factory management and this unit receives instructions from the Marketing and Market Research groups, which are also independent from the factory.

Thus, in defining a "world-class factory," we assume that the factory is producing a saleable product, designed to satisfy the end-user or buyer. We assume that the R&D and Marketing units of the company have done or are doing their jobs accordingly and that the ball is now in the hands of the factory management to produce the right products the right way.

Physical factory

If all the factory operations (procurement to shipping) described above occur inside the factory or a plant compound, we have a "physical factory."

This paper will focus on "world-class physical factories." In this age of outsourcing and reengineering, in an effort to cut costs or convert them from fixed to variable, many factory processes are now jobbed out or contracted out to third parties known as subcontractors, contractors, or even to raw material suppliers.

By further linking this network of companies with information technology, we can have a "virtual factory," running as if it were one factory under one roof and one management. So what happened to the original factory that outsourced, became emasculated in the process, and reduced to just a thinking (design) and marketing entity? Can it be rated as a "world-class factory?" No, but its subcontractors ca/for they remain physical. We still need physical factories to make the widgets and widget parts. Somebody has still got to do the dirty but lucrative job at the end of the day, in spite of this outsourcing fever. And these widget contractors would all have to be world-class factories in order for any virtual factory or supply chain to achieve operational excellence and global competitiveness.

In summary, what we are about to define as a "world-class factory" is a physical factory in the manufacturing industry making saleable products.

The reader may later realize that many if not all of the descriptions of a world-class factory may be useful in describing world class manufacturing supply chains and other integrated network of physical factories.

All indicators of excellence in factory operations can be conveniently grouped into five: defect-free, fast, flexible, lean and environment-friendly.

With five as the magic number, a useful analogy that comes to mind would be the 5-star rating of hotels and restaurants. But the analogy ends there, for the 5-star rating of these establishments is inaccurate and nothing but gauges of their "priceyness" rather than of their excellence in operations. I have received sloppy, inconsistent and unreliable services from 5-star rated hotels, and excellent service from 3-star ones. While avoiding the pitfalls of the hotel star rating that confuse travel agents and travelers alike, I propose the accumulation of all the five indicators described below or "stars" to achieve "5-star" or "world-class" factory status. The five stars defect-free, fast, flexible, lean and environment-friendly are not mutually exclusive, and they may influence one another positively or negatively. But the degree of interaction, interdependence, or correlation is not that strong such that it is possible for a factory to have only some, say three or four of the five.

I have witnessed such 3-4 star factories. It is not an all-or-nothing proposition. A factory can accumulate these stars during its continuous improvement journey. The sequence of stars acquisition is not important; all I believe are equally difficult and important. The sequence—defect-free, fast, flexible, lean and environment-friendly is just my personal suggestion for those who wish to clear the hurdles one at a time.

Note that I did not purposely include any specific management programs in any of the 5-star ratings. The five are intended to be the results or deliverables, the "what's" of any or all programs the factory or company chooses to employ. All management philosophies or schools of thought or "hows" are welcome, but do not garner points unless they achieve any of these five indicators of excellence. For example, a factory, in trying to achieve the 5 stars, may employ programs such as Total Quality Management (TQM), ISO 9000, Six-Sigma Program, Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), Kaizen. These are means to an end. They are not ends in themselves.

Star No.1: Defect-free

A world-class factory must have high quality outputs, inputs, and processes. It must have both low external failure (defects that escape the factory undetected), and low internal failure (defects discovered and fixed inside the factory). Defect free sales are not enough if there are extensive rework and repair operations going on inside. Inspection between stations should be nil or minimal. A WCF eliminates most incoming inspection as they partner only with reliable suppliers. At any stage or process does a WCF do 100 percent inspection, as this is evidence of inadequate quality at the source. In lieu of inspection, a WCF employs extensively foolproofing devices to prevent defects. These machines and processes are made robust against their operator's inattention and even carelessness.

After sensing any defect produced or received or any abnormality for that matter, these smart machines switch off themselves and attract attention with bells and lights to seek help. Moreover to further prevent defects from flowing downstream, WCF workers, all extensively trained on quality, are empowered to stop any line, machine, or process that produce defects. The factory, in coordination with R&D, employs the concept of design for manufacturability (DFM), which ensures that products are not just de-

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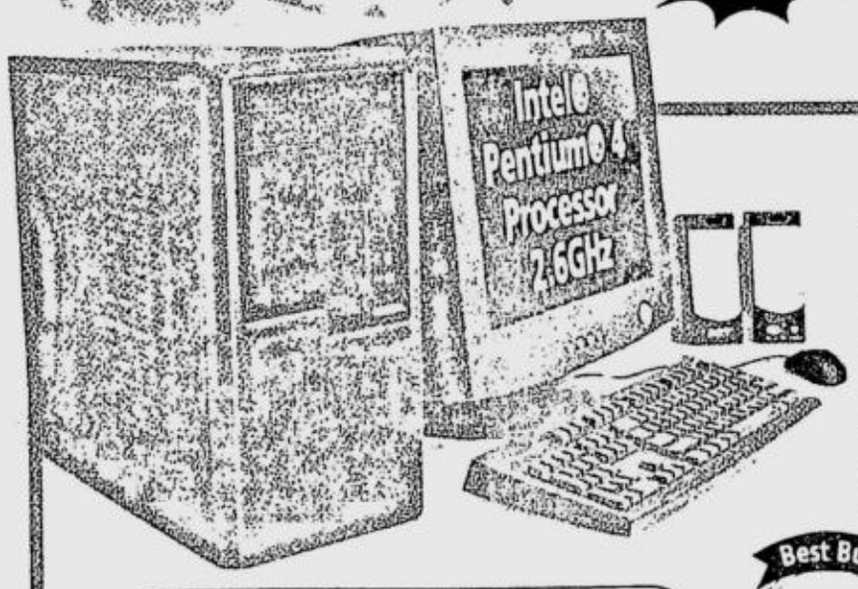

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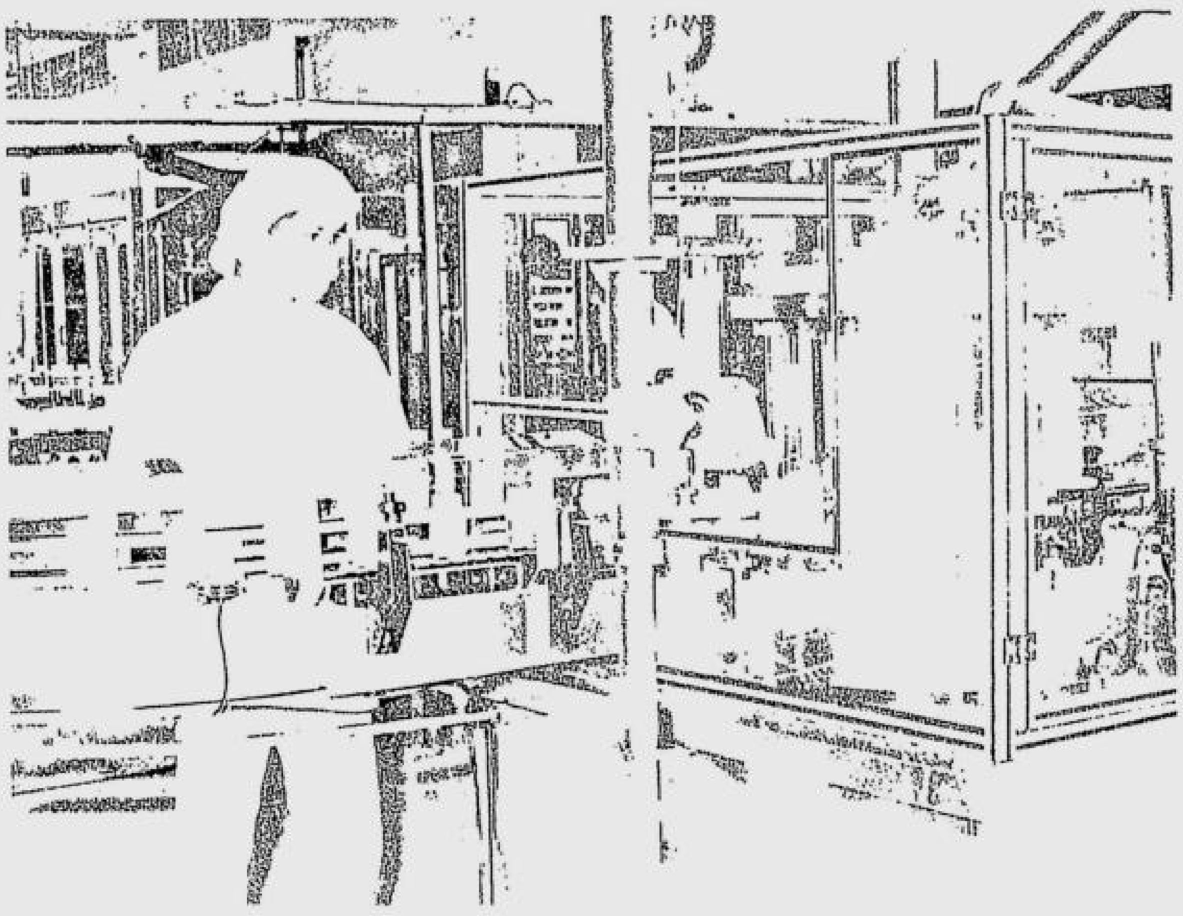

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By further linking this network of companies with information technology, we can have a "virtual factory," running as if it were one factory under one roof and one management. So what happened to the original factory that outsourced, became emasculated in the process, and reduced to just a thinking (design) and marketing entity? Can it be rated as a "world-class factory?" No, but its subcontractors ca/for they remain physical. We still need physical factories to make the widgets and widget parts. Somebody has still got to do the dirty but lucrative job at the end of the day, in spite of this outsourcing fever. And these widget contractors would all have to be world-class factories in order for any virtual factory or supply chain to achieve operational excellence and global competitiveness.

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The reader may later realize that many if not all of the descriptions of a world-class factory may be useful in describing world class manufacturing supply chains and other integrated network of physical factories.

All indicators of excellence in factory operations can be conveniently grouped into five: defect-free, fast, flexible, lean and environment-friendly.

With five as the magic number, a useful analogy that comes to mind would be the 5-star rating of hotels and restaurants. But the analogy ends there, for the 5-star rating of these establishments is inaccurate and nothing but gauges of their "priceyness" rather than of their excellence in operations. I have received sloppy, inconsistent and unreliable services from 5-star rated hotels, and excellent service from 3-star ones. While avoiding the pitfalls of the hotel star rating that confuse travel agents and travelers alike, I propose the accumulation of all the five indicators described below or "stars" to achieve "5-star" or "world-class" factory status. The five stars defect-free, fast, flexible, lean and environment-friendly are not mutually exclusive, and they may influence one another positively or negatively. But the degree of interaction, interdependence, or correlation is not that strong such that it is po... to have only ... four of the five.

I have witnes... factories. It ... n... ing propositio... cumulate the ... continuous imp... The sequence ... is not important; ... equally difficult and ... The sequence ... defec... flexible, lean and ... friendly is just my ... gestion for those ... the hurdles on...

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... management ... the 5-star rat... intended to be ... deliverables ... the ... ll pr...grams the ... sources to em... philosophies ... "hows" are ... not ... arnet points ... any of these ... excellence. For ... trying to ... may employ ... Total Quality ... (TQM), ISO 9000, ... Total Productive ... (TPM), Kaizen. These are means to an end. They are not ends in themselves.

Star No. 1: Defect-free

A world-class factory must have high quality outputs, inputs, and processes. It must have both low external failure (defects that escape the factory undetected), and low internal failure (defects discovered and fixed inside the factory). Defect free sales are not enough if there are extensive rework and repair operations going on inside. Inspection between stations should be nil or minimal. A WCF eliminates most incoming inspection as they partner only with reliable suppliers. At any stage or process does a WCF do 100 percent inspection, as this is evidence of inadequate quality at the source. In lieu of inspection, a WCF employs extensively fool-proofing devices to prevent defects. These machines and processes are made robust against their operator's inattention and even carelessness.

After sensing any defect produced or received or any abnormality for that matter, these smart machines switch off themselves and attract attention with bells and lights to seek help. Moreover to further prevent defects from flowing downstream, WCF workers, all extensively trained on quality, are empowered to stop any line, machine, or process that produce defects. The factory, in coordination with R&D, employs the concept of design for manufacturability (DFM) which ensures that product are not just de...

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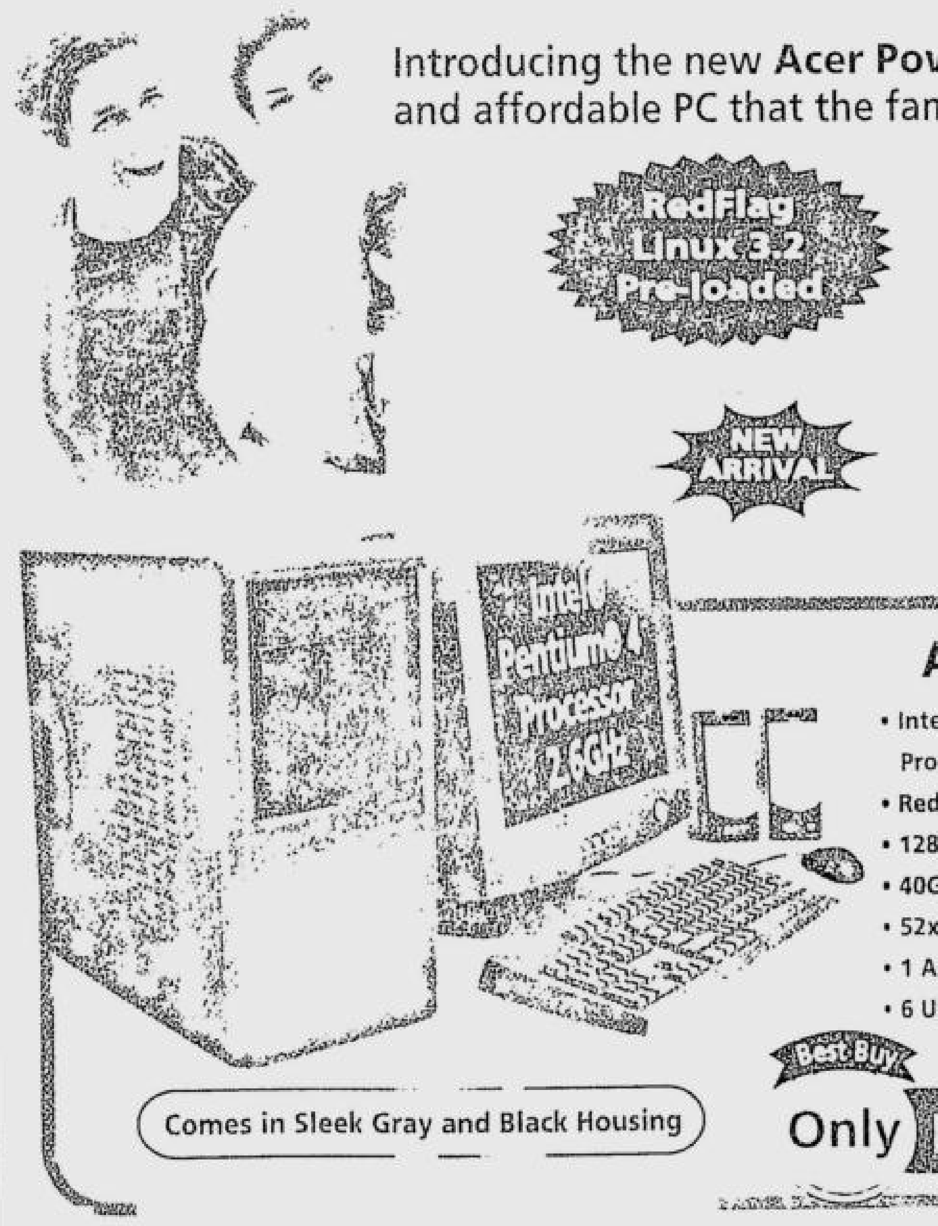

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Listing the elements of a world-class factory

From page B7

signed for customer satisfaction, but also designed for easy, defect-free, waste-free processing and manufacturing.

Finally, a WCF would use dpm (defects per million) or ppm (parts per million) as the metric of choice for quality levels. It avoids using defect rates in percentage since this is too gross and limited (1-100 range) and hard to comprehend and track. Most factories produce at least a million units of products in a year or less time. Even low volume but huge products like planes contain millions of parts. So one million should be a more appropriate base rather than one hundred in measuring and tracking quality and its improvement.

WCFs should achieve a 300-1000 dpm (.03 percent -0.1 percent) defect rate, both externally and internally. In relative terms, assuming a conventional factory has 5 percent defect rates, a WCF should have 98 percent less defects or better.

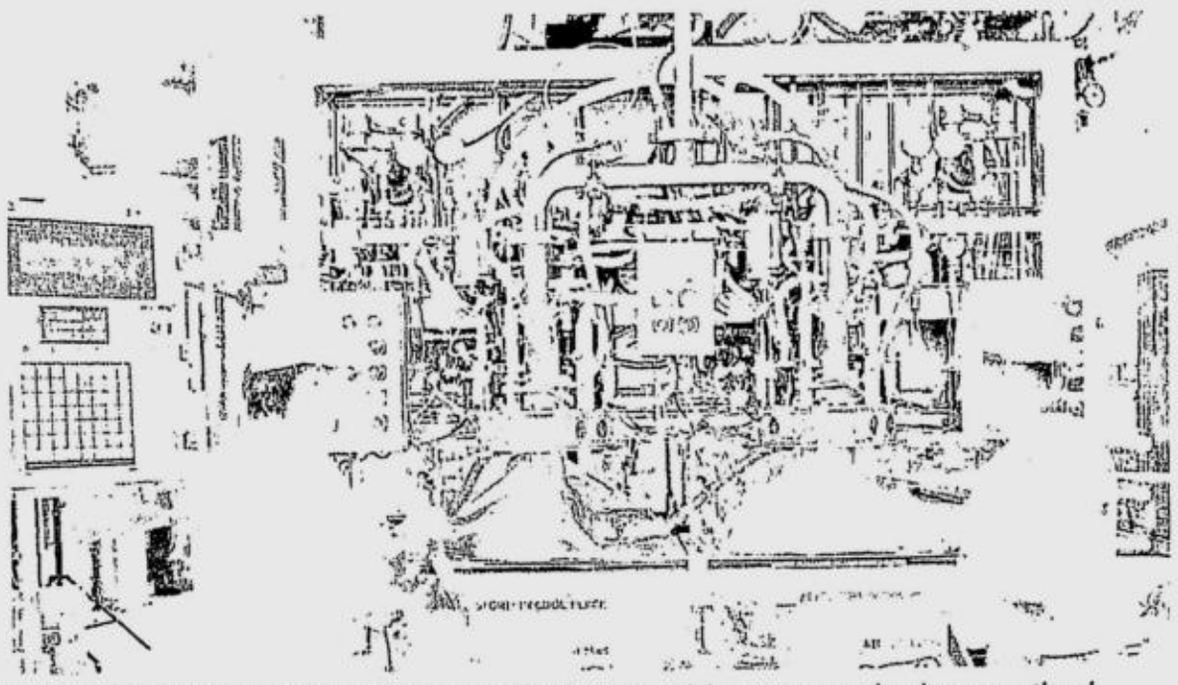
Six-sigma WCFs can achieve 3-4 dpm.

Star No. 2: Fast

WCFs produce fast not in terms of production cycle time or production rate but in terms of manufacturing lead-time or turnaround time, or order processing time for make-to-order factories. It is fast not because of fast machines and workers and high capacity, but because it does less activities than ordinary factories to produce the same widgets.

A WCF with slower machines and lower capacity can process orders faster than one more endowed with production resources.

How does a WCF achieve this high speed? It does so by eliminating wasteful, unnecessary processes and then streamlining what remains necessary. Through this approach, process cycle times (from procurement to shipping down to the sub-processes that make them up) are constantly examined and ruthlessly cut to the bare bones using world-class benchmarks as a guide. Also, with much less inspection and rework activities due to its high quality described earlier, it further cuts its lead time.



A WORLD-CLASS factory is lean in the sense that it uses much less resources than its conventional counterpart in producing widgets of the same quality and quantity.

Further lead time reduction comes with less storage and inventories and less materials handling, as will be described in the section on "Lean." Support groups like procurement and maintenance also cut their lead times finding and selecting suppliers, responding to repair calls and fixing broken equipment. WCF support groups can achieve breakthrough records in cutting their cycle times from days to hours, or from hours to seconds. For example, key suppliers of WCFs are just nearby either co-located inside the factory vicinity or at most three kilometers away from it, thus significantly cutting inbound logistics and transport time. A WCF is also noted for its extensive use of visual controls, devices embedded into all processes and equipment that emit lights and/or sounds to immediately alert operators and the factory management of any situation that could cause quality problems or production delays. Response times to abnormal situations amount only to seconds. To further cut order processing time, a WCF may be directly linked to the point-of-sale (POS) the cash register itself, the salesman taking orders, or the company storefront website. As a result of all these efforts and programs, a WCF can dramatically cut its over-all total manufacturing lead time (or order processing time for make-to-order factories) to 50 percent or less of that of conventional factories. This capability can give it a very short "time-to-market" and "first mover" advantages over competitors.

Star No. 3: Lean

A WCF is lean in the sense that it uses much less resources than its conventional counterpart in producing widgets of the same quality and quantity. With extremely high productivity and yield, it dramatically reduces inventories, space, machines and even people and suppliers required to achieve the production target. Most WCFs adopt the market driven or "pull" rather than the more conventional forecast/capacity driven "push" concept of production. The pull system ensures that only the needed products and parts are planned and produced at the right time at the right quantity. Ordinary factories produce based on capacity or forecast (which is always wrong), and they tend to be cluttered with inventories and other idle resources. WCFs avoid overproduction and overstocking, without incurring stock-outs, thanks to their short lead times described earlier.

Much less raw materials, work-in-process (WIP), and finished goods mean reduced working capital investment, space and warehouse requirements.

A WCF's inventory may be as low as 10 percent of that of a conventional factory producing the same volume. There are no warehouses and storage spaces where normally expected. A WCF's output-to-space ratio is orders of magnitude better than that of ordinary factories. Most WCF's production processes are balanced in terms of cycle times, thus eliminating the need for WIP between workstations. Set-up times are also reduced such that production batch sizes are greatly cut. They can achieve a batch size of one through one-piece flow production, wherein there is only one unit in each station and between each station at any one time.

A WCF is also lean in terms of manpower. Its multi-skilled worker can operate several pieces of equipment at the same time, to as many as twenty. The WCF's very high machine-to-man ratio sets it visibly apart from run-of-the-mill plants. A less evident difference is its high direct labor-to-indirect labor ratio.

A WCF finds less need for a large number of support groups and other indirect workers who manage inventories, warehouses, quality control, maintenance, and space.

Finally, a WCF is lean even in terms of its business partners, the suppliers of parts and raw materials. They have few but highly reliable suppliers of key parts and materials doing sole sourcing (one supplier) in some cases for key supplies. Being lean, a WCF is outstanding in resource management.

Star No. 4: Flexible

Being flexible, a WCF is clearly a factory for the future, with a future.

With the global market's demand for more product variety and models, factories with highly flexible and adaptive manufacturing systems would have definite marketing and cost advantages. A WCF does not have to produce products in high variety; but it has the capability to do so in the short term as the need or market demand for them arises. The key for its flexibility is its very short set-up time, the amount of time to changeover from one model to another. In ordinary factories, this could take hours if not days. Long set-up times, to justify and recover their high downtime costs, translate to big production batches of one model, high minimum order quantities and limited product offerings.

A WCF has programs to continuously reduce all set-up times streamlining, reengineering and reinventing the set-up processes and procedures. A WCF's set-up time amounts to a few minutes or seconds, instead of days and hours. The SMED (Single Minutes Exchange of Die) program, employed by many WCFs, aims to reduce set-ups of all equipment and production lines to just 60 seconds. The die is used as its prototype, because this jig typically takes the longest to replace when changing product models. With short set-ups, high variety and small batch or order sizes do not significantly increase unit production costs. This cost advantage translates to very competitive pricing opportunities. A WCF's production line employs the more flexible product layout rather than the process layout. Equipment are grouped and lined up in sequence to produce a product or family of products. In conventional factories, equipment are usually grouped by type.

This process layout is highly efficient in terms of equipment utilization, but very inflexible. The WCF's lines are typically multi-model lines, capable of producing at least two different models at the same time. This number can easily jump to 20 in some WCFs in the automotive industry.

Capable of high volume high variety production, a WCF can do mass customization instead of the traditional mass production. When linked to the POS or point of sale, a flexible, multi-model line can do real time mass customization. Flexible lines mean the WCF's have multi-skilled workers capable of multi-tasking. It also implies that their suppliers are capable of multi-model parts delivery in small batch sizes at frequent intervals.

Star No. 5: Environment-friendly

A WCF operates not only efficiently but also in a clean and safe environment. Its processes are "brown," meaning they are waste and pollution free. A WCF produces only "green" products, products designed for the protection and preservation of the environment. Such products are usually recyclable, repairable, remanufacturable, re-usable, or biodegradable. A WCF's products have been designed with proper disposable in mind at the end of their useful lives. It also practices good housekeeping to keep the place orderly, clutter-free and less accident-prone. A dangerous and dirty factory, however productive, cannot be considered world class.

A WCF practices good and thorough housekeeping.

It is prepared and equipped to effectively deal with external and internal emergency situations, like fire, earthquake, explosion and accidents. A WCF is a conducive place to work in. Its workers and the community it is in are proud of it. A WCF serves as a model corporate citizen in its community.

(The author teaches Operations Management, Total Quality Management, and Business Process Reengineering at the Asian Institute of Management. His email is rtd@aim.edu.ph)

People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Fun learning in EALC

ONE can never underestimate the importance of early education to make achievers out of our children. But teaching kids their ABC's is not enough to ensure full development. That's why parents should be particular about the quality of a school's curriculum.

Aware of this need, the Early Achievers' Learning Center bravely shunned traditional teaching techniques in favor of the progressive approach to educating its young students. And although some critics have challenged the effectiveness if this modern method, EALC has proven with every successful graduate that kids learn better this way.

The EALC Chinese and English curricula is "Just for Kids". Its progressive approach to education is thematic. Subject matters are integrated and organized around a special topic of the month: for example - pets. Special topics or themes are flexible and are chosen based on previous experiences with children or on the current interests of a particular group.

Integration of learning takes the form of multiple-goal activities like field trips where concepts in Math, Social Studies and Language are addressed and learned simultaneously. Learning experiences are provided individually, in small groups and whole groups.

The woman behind this school is Norma Ong Ching, a psychologist with a master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of the Philippines. Mrs. Ching has taken many course in Early Childhood Education and attended countless seminars here and abroad.

What she learned and observed from her studies greatly influenced her philosophy and approach to education, which remains to be the progressive approach wherein children's intellectual, socio-emotional and physical skills are developed through meaningful and interesting activities.

EALC is located at # 78 Sgt. E. Rivera Street, Quezon City with telephone numbers 365-2424 and 365-4684. It has child-centered, air-conditioned classrooms filled with up-to-date educational materials. There's also a huge activity center and auditorium.

The school currently oversees the developmentally appropriate eructation of many Filipino-Chinese children. EALC continuously trains its growing numbers of young yet experienced and caring teachers through seminars and early childhood courses in U.P. and Ateneo. Furthermore, EALC has organized many parenting seminars to help parents better understand and care for their very young achievers.

EALC has three other branches in prime locations: Bel-Air - 890 3380 and 895 7881, Greenmeadows - 634 3951 and 632 1777 and Ongpin - 734 3988.

After 18 years of dedicated hard work, Norma Ching is still searching for ways to improve the school's curriculum, teachers and child centered-facilities. The new and improved child friendly playground, the additional computer facilities and the Kumon Center in the schools are a testament to this continued development. This is why parents who enroll their children in EALC tell Mrs. Ching because of her school, their young ones have truly become well-adjusted students and achievers in the big schools.

RGMA NETWORK PARTNERS WITH INQ7 INTERACTIVE,

RGMA Network Inc partners with INQ7 Interactive Inc for the Eleksyon 2004 project. INQ7.net's Eleksyon 2004 website (www.eleksyon2004.com) showcases the platforms of the candidates, surveys, audio/video streaming, voters' guide, and other services. RGMA would be providing radio plugs about the Eleksyon 2004 website on DZBB Super Radio and DWLS-FM. The contract signing was held at the RGMA office last May 5. Shown are (from left): Mon Lizardo, VP for business and linkages, INQ7.net; Paolo Prieto, president, INQ7.net; Mike Enriquez, president, RGMA; Butch Gonzales, chief operating officer, VP-FM operations, RGMA; Fred Cortez, operations manager, DZBB)

More school after school?

IF YOU can remember the time when tutors were for those who couldn't attend regular school and reviewing was done alone, then you're probably not that young anymore.

Why so? Because the young of today are enrolled in tutorials, enrolled in tutorials, enrichment programs, and all kinds of "additional" classes. They review for exams in groups with review teachers and exam couches. Tutoring is apparently such a growing business that, in the past six months, at least three new tutorial centers have opened in Quezon City alone.

Rossana Llenado, managing director of Ahead Tutorial & Review Center, says the current boom in the tutorial industry may be due to the changing values of parents worldwide. "Parents want their hard-earned money to be put in good use - like quality education. Both parents now need to work just to send their children to the best schools. Competition is however tight in such schools, so children end up needing all the help they can get to cope and excel. This is where tutorials and review programs come in," she explains. Ahead's Quezon City branch is just minutes away from Miriam, Ateneo, UP and several other schools.

"The parents' time is also an issue here. As much as they would like to help their children with schoolwork, many of them are already bogged down with work. Tutors actually help parents conserve their time and energy for more quality activities with their children. With homework out of the way, dads can read with their kids, moms can make handicrafts with them, parents can simply bond with their children," Ronaleen Lorenzana, who supervises Ahead tutors, says.

Interestingly, however, Llenado notes that tutorials are not just for students with difficulties in school. More than ever, it's the class leaders who enroll in tutorials. "Today's youngsters are invariably more competitive," she says. "No one wants to be left behind. Kids want to do as well - or even better than their classmates."

The grand-scale effect of tutorials on the educational climate has yet to be seen. Tutoring works from some students, but maybe not for all. Educators still have differing views on its role in children's school life. For now, however, let's just say it's a way by which students and their parents cope in the ever-changing world.

TEN FILIPINO STUDENTS TO COMPETE IN INTEL ISEF

Ten Filipino high school students will represent the Philippines in the largest and most prestigious science competition in the world, the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel Isef) in Portland, Oregon USA on May 9 to 15. The Intel Isef is the world's largest pre-college science competition. It provides an opportunity for the world's best young scientists and inventors to come together to share ideas, showcase cutting-edge science projects, and compete for over US 3 million dollars in awards and scholarships. In photo are the ten delegates Anne Margrette Velasquez, Ma. Katrina Rivera, Allan Rey Gonzales from Manila Science High School; Mark Leo Bejemino, from Philippine Science High School - Western Visayas Campus; Domingo Vargas Jr., Claro M. Recto High School; Jayson Reggie Obos, Melanie Melchor, and Trina Napasindayao from Quezon City Science High School; Joy Anne Aquino, E. Rodriguez Jr. High School; and Anna Kristina Bautista, Philippine Science High School. Joining them are: Intel PSF mascot Chip, and Intel Phils officials (from left): Arnel Abjelina, Itpi public affairs manager; Rosario Ventura, Intel Asia public affairs manager; and at farthest right, Yvonne Garcia-Flores, Itpi educationa manager. Also in photo are Dost Sec. Estrella Alabastro and DepEd Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo.

'MOTHERS FOR PEACE' BAGS 2003 DIWA

The multi-awarded nationwide TV advocacy campaign, 'Mothers for Peace', recently garnered Diwa, the top award of the Creative Guild of the Philippines and Ayala Foundation, as the best TV public service campaign for 2003. TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno, the advertising agency responsible for the creation of the 'Mothers for Peace' campaign, received the awards in April 2004. Attending the special presentation are Ad Foundation executive officers (from left) assistant board secretary and executive director Linda Gamboa, board adviser and founding chair Louie Morales of Image Dimensions Inc, membership committee chair Jose Rafael Hernandez of Well Advertising Inc, board chair Antonio Samson of Optimum Media Philippines, TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno managing director Jacinto Puno and supervising account executive Gilbert Guaring, Foundation ways and means chair Pana director Ed Sunico of Unilever Phils, Foundation treasurer Dodie Lucas of RoadRunner Network Inc, and ways and means co-chair Jimmy Alanis of GMA Network.

MARY GRACE C. CASTILLO: NEW SOPRANO TO WATCH

Mary Grace Castillo earned admiration in the recently staged Recital IV where she rendered songs from the operas, 'Romeo et Juliette' and 'Norma'. Mary Grace sang through every opera scene with seamless grace. Superb, captivating and soul-reaching - that's how her audience summed up her performance. Mary Grace C. Castillo, eldest of the two daughters of Adrian and Precy Castillo (nee Chavez) recently graduated from the University of the Philippines, College of Music. Just days after her graduation recital, Mary Grace together with the members of The Ateneo Glee Club left for a 2-month concert tour in parts of the U.S. They will be performing in L.A., Indiana, Michigan, Washington D.C., New York, Chicago and Guam.

ALASKA SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HOUR

For the third time since its launch in 1999, Children's Hour has received the support of Alaska Milk Corporation. Handing in the check to Children's Hour executive director, Evangeline T. Mayuga is Alaska Milk president, Wilfred Uytengsu with director for corporate affairs Santiago Polido. For more information on Children' s Hour, you may contact their secretariat at the 10F Ayala Wing, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue Corner Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City. You may also visit their website at www.childrenshour.org.ph or e-mail at ask@childrenshour.org.ph.

IMMUVIT ENDORSER REVEALED

Pascual Laboratories recently signed up former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho as the endorser of Immuvit, a premium multi-vitamin that promotes overall health. Shown in photo during the contract signing are Pascual Laboratories' president, Manuel Salazar (right) and Advertising & Promotions consultant, Mia Pascual (left), together with Jose Isidro Camacho (center). Witnessing the event are (standing from right) Roberto Bautista, business director and Ian Segovia, assistant product manager of Pascual Laboratories.

ProductFiles

Coleman Powermate introduces new models

COLEMAN Powermate introduces the two latest innovations of portable generators in the U.S. that is now available in the Philippines. The Mega Pulse 1850 and Premium Plus 6250 (6 gallons) completes the line-up of Coleman Powermate generators made in the U.S. ranging from 1750 to 14000 watts with 1 year warranty in preparation for summer, rainy season and the hassles of brownouts. Perfect for household, recreation, camping and other outdoor activities, the Mega Pulse 1850 is so compact it can fit in the trunk of your car. The Premium Plus 6250 (6 gallons) comes with a wheel kit for portability and an overhead valve (OHV) engine to provide fuel efficiency, longer life, reduced noise and easier maintenance. This model is perfect for residential or small business and comes with an extra large 6 gallon (23 liters) fuel tank that provides up to 12 hours run time compared with the 17 liters of the other brands. They are now available in the market with Service Centers nationwide. For inquiries, please contact: powermate@colemanasia.com.phor call (02) 637-8421.

Negrense artist launches solo exhibit

NEGRENSE artist Mitchell Doren will launch his first solo exhibit of oil paintings entitled Katahum kag Kalig-on (Beauty and Strength) from May 9 to June 4, at the Syano Artlink at 19 Shanghai Street, Better Living Subdivision, Paranaque City. The exhibit focuses on the beauty of life, inner strength of character, relationships and the environment. The theme also touches on the struggles of man and beast in order to survive and enjoy life and its beauty. The artist's style of painting is realism bordering on impressionism. He also paints occasional social realism and has also done numerous interpreted paintings based on biblical subjects and topics. In this exhibit, his paintings vary from idyllic, stony or rocky landscapes and seascapes, flora and fauna, struggles for survival as well as angels, enchanted entities and human forms. For more information, contact Syano Artlink, Tel. No. 8213904 or Ugsad Art Gallery, Tel. No. 4213704 or email ugsadmitchel@pacific.net.ph.

ABC PARTNERS WITH RADIO VERITAS FOR 2004 ELECTION COVERAGE

ABC and DCRV-Radio Veritas agreed to embark on a comprehensive coverage of the 2004 elections through simulcasts of various election-related programs. With the strategic alliance that opens window to a news-exchange system, ABC and DCRV promise an even more extensive coverage of the May polls. The network also extend their partnership beyond the election period with other collaborative projects in News and Public Affairs and sponsorship of seminars to boost their respective news teams. Present during the contract signing were (from left): ABC VP for news and public affairs Jose Javier, ABC EVP and COO Regalado Galura, ABC president and CEO Antonio 'Tonyboy' Cojuangco, DCRV-Radio Veritas Global Broadcasting System Inc VP for operations Rev. Fr. Anton Pascual, and DCRV station manager Melo Acuña.

Seminars, competitions set for 6th Ifbe

PREPARATIONS for the 6th International Food & Beverage Exposition kick into high gear as business trends seminars are scheduled in cooperation with various organizations and institutions. For the second year now, the College of Saint Benilde will host the Young Hoteliers Expo, a collection of culinary competition to include Flairtending, Table Set Up, Best Coffee Concoction, Deli Centerpiece and Chocolate Praline Competitions. Further, a mix of business trends and technical seminars will be offered to the public. Included in the line of seminars are "Meat Processing" by the Bureau of Animal Industry; "Health Foods" and "Kitchen Design" by Iscahm/F&B World; "How to Franchise Your Business" and "How to Buy the Right Franchise" by Francorp and "Trends and Tendencies: The Japanese Market for Food and Bev Products", among others. Companies such as Krones AG, Edward Keller Phils, PIC Enterprises Inc, Unimagna Phils Inc, Elixir Industrial Equipment Inc, Ebro Armaturen Phils, Fehn Electromech Systems, Switchtek Construction, Filipinas Thermo King, Triumph Machinery Corp, and Grundfos Phils have already signed up and will feature their latest technologies for the food and beverages industry. For more information, call tel. nos. 687-0654, 687-7523, 845-1324 or 759-6880.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

VERY URGENT

ADVISORY TO : ALL REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTORS/OICs
ALL PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISORS/OICs
ALL ELECTION OFFICERS/OICs
ALL BOARDS OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

The Supreme Court En Banc in its Resolution dated April 27, 2004, on G.R. No. 162885 (Eddie Gil vs. Commission on Elections, et. al.) ***"Resolved to DISMISS the same for failure thereof to sufficiently show that any grave abuse of discretion was committed by the Commission on Elections in rendering the challenged resolution which, on the contrary, appears to be in accord with the facts and applicable law and jurisprudence."***

Accordingly, with this disqualification with finality of Eddie Gil as Presidential Candidate for the 10 May 2004 elections, the vote for **"BRO. EDDIE"** or **"EDDIE"** shall be a vote for Presidential Candidate **Eduardo C. Villanueva**.

For immediate dissemination to parties concerned.

May 7, 2004.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

(PDI – May 9, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

VERY URGENT

ADVISORY TO : ALL REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTORS/OICs
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The Supreme Court has already resolved the case *OLIVIA B. COO a.k.a. "BONG COO" vs. COMELEC & RAMON B. BAUTISTA "BONG REVILLA", JR. a.k.a. "KAP"* (G.R. No. 163187) last May 6, 2004, stating, insofar, pertinent the following:

1. The COMELEC did not abuse its discretion in allowing Senatorial Candidate Ramon B. Revilla, Jr. to register **"BONG"** as his nickname considering that he "has consistently used said nickname during the 1995, 1998 and 2001 elections when he ran for the positions of vice-governor and governor, respectively, in the province of Cavite"; and
2. The nickname ***"BONG COO" is not the same as "BONG"***

Accordingly, the votes of **"BONG"** shall be a vote for Senatorial Candidate Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Jr.

For immediate dissemination to parties concerned.

May 8, 2004.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

(PDI – May 9, 2004)

COMELEC HOTLINES

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Loan No. 4108-PH

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the *World Bank* towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under World Bank.*
2. The DepEd Division Project Implementation Support Unit (DepEd-DPISU) for TEEP through the Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction/Repair of school buildings itemized in Ten (10) packages (the "Works") in different municipalities in the Province of Antique. The following are the project packages:

Package/District/School	NC	R	Scope of Works
SBP 2003			
Package II - Project Reference No. 02-011-2003			
Hamtic			
2. Fabrica Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF
3. Caromangay Elementary School	1		Construction of One (1) Unit One (1) Classroom Multi-grade Type SB
Sub-total, Package II	*1*	*3*	
Package V-A - Project Reference No. 02-014-2003			
Sibalom			
1. Fornier Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
2. Odiong Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
3. Ilabas Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF
Sub-total, Package V-A		*8*	
Package V-B - Project Reference No. 02-014-2003			
San Remigio			
Magdalena Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package V-B		*2*	
Package VI – Project Reference No. 02-015-2003			
Patnongon			
1. Igburi Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
2. La-Rioja Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF and
		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
3. Baybay Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package VI		*10*	
Package VII – Project Reference No. 02-016-2003			
Laua-an			
1. Oloc Elementary School	2		Construction of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom SB
2. Lindero-Cadajug Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
3. Guisijan Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package VII	*2*	*6*	
Package IX – Project Reference No. 02-018-2003			
Barbaza			
1. San Antonio Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
Tibiao			
2. Tibiao Central School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
3. Esparagoza Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package IX		*8*	
Sub-total, SBP 2003	*3*	*37*	
SBP 2004			
Package I - Project Reference No. 02-001-2004			
Anini-y			
Igpalge Elementary School	2		Construction of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom SB
Sub-total, Package I	*2*		
Package II – Project Reference No. 02-002-2004			
Patnongon			
1. Samalague Elementary School	2		Construction of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom SB
2. Villa Laua-an-Villa Sal Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
3. Tamayoc Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package II	*2*	*6*	
Package III – Project Reference No. 02-003-2004			
Bugasong			
1. Tonoan Elementary School		1	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLS
2. Tagudtud Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF
Sub-total, Package III		*5*	
Package IV – Project Reference No. 02-04-2004			
Barbaza			
1. Magtulis Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom STSB
Culasi			
2 San Luis-Condes Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package IV		*5*	
Sub-total, SBP 2004	*4*	*16*	
TOTAL	*7*	*53*	

Legend:

NC	-New Construction
R	-Repair
SB	-School Building
BLSB	-Bagong Lipunan Type School Building
MPF	-Marcos Pre-Fab Type School Building
STSB	-Special Type School Building

Local contractors should be accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with a category of at least *Small B.*

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the DepEd Division Office of Antique, Binirayan Street, San Jose de Buenavista, Antique starting **May 10, 2004** for a nonrefundable fee of ***One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00)*** per package. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of ***two and half percent (2.5%)*** of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Antique, Binirayan Street, San Jose de Buenavista, Antique on or before ***10:00 a.m., June 9, 2004***, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. Prior to Bid Opening, a Pre-Bid Conference will be held at ***10:00 a.m., May 25, 2004*** at the same address indicated above.

(SGD.) VICTOR G. DE GRACIA, JR.
Division Bids and Awards Committee
Chairperson

(PDI – May 9, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

PUBLIC ADVISORY

As previously announced by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), there are two thousand six hundred (2,600) ballots discovered to be missing from the National Printing Office (NPO), EDSA, Quezon City. These ballots are for use for the May 10, 2004 National and Local Elections and were allocated for the following cities more particularly described hereunder, *viz:*

Place	Serial Number	Quantity
1st District, Pasay City	0142001-0142100	100 ballots (1 pad)
2nd District, Pasay City	0120101-0120200	100 ballots (1 pad)
Marawi City	0016101-0016200	100 ballots (1 pad)
2nd District, Makati City	0036001-0037000 0026101-0026200 0026101-0026300 0106101-0106200	1,300 ballots (13 pads)
1st District, Pasig City	0003001-0004000	1,000 ballots (10 pads)

The COMELEC immediately took the necessary action and proper safeguards to implement stricter measures to obviate occurrence of similar incident.

The ballots afore-described and hereby considered **INVALID**.

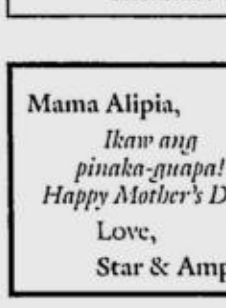
In view of the foregoing, the Election Officers, Municipal/City Treasurers, the members of the Board of the Elections Inspectors (BEI) concerned and other interested parties are heretofore **ADVISED** and **DIRECTED** to immediately report to the COMELEC the receipt and/or discovery of the said ballots and confiscate the same. The Municipal/City Treasurers are also DIRECTED NOT to ISSUE the afore-described ballots to the BEIs and to take custody of the name for submission to the **COMELEC**. Finally, in the event these ballots are inadvertently issued, the BEIs are DIRECTED NOT to USE any of the ballots.

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Mother's Day Treat

Nanay Berta,
Thank you for always being there. Your love keep us stronger.
Romy, Lisa & Sherla, Rudyard & Gay

Mama Pinky Barba
Just wanted to say
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
Love:
Reinhart & Kirby



Mama Alipia,
Ikaw ang pinaka-guapa! Happy Mother's Day!
Love,
Star & Ampy

To our dearest Ma,
There's never been a minute we weren't glad you were our Mom. We love you, Ma.
Ric, Pet, Vic, Nene, Ruby, Ranee & Bong

Mama Nemie,
Thanks for everything. We know we can always count on you.
Rolly and **Helen**, **Noel** and **Rona**, **Rhoda**

Mommy Lola Nilda Barba
Thanks for all the things you do!
Happy Mother's Day!
Love:
Reinhart, Pinky & Kirby

Maiza,
Happy Mother's Day!
You're The Best MOM in the Whole World... We Love You!!!
Nhel & Angelo

To Nanay Paring,
Happy Mother's Day! Thanks for everything. We love you!
From all of us.

Mama Felisa,
Nothing can compensate 25 years of hard work and sacrifices just to provide us with comfortable life. Thank you Mama and we love you.
Froi & Fanny, Raffy & Lulu, Jerry & Jacq, Jennet & Kate

Happy Mother's Day Mama! You're the best.
Thanks for being so patient with us. Hope you like this gift.
We love you so much!
papa, ianna, sabina, iya

Inay,
Salamat sa pagmamahal mo. Lagi Ka sa puso namin.
Romy, Lisa, Rudyard, Gay & Sheren

Mommy Amie,
Thanks for making all my childhood & present dreams come true... the day you became my Mom. I love you.
Lica

Mommy Lita,
Happy Mum's Day!
Love, Daddy Lileng & Ling-Ling

Mama Lola Nora Salamanca
Thank you for always being there.
Happy Mother's Day!
Love:
Reinhart, Pinky & Kirby

Nanay Naty Montesines
Happy Mother's Day!

To Ma,
Happy Mother's Day! God Bless!
Glenn

Nanay Delia,
Happy Mother's Day! God bless! We love you, Nanay!
Love, **Kristine, Clett, Miko, Eman, Renzo, Rebjay, Chin-Chin, Sid, Franz, Paulyn** and **Abby**

To My,
Happy Mother's Day! Thanks for everything. We love you!
From **Joshua, Angelica** and **Dy**

Lola Juling,
Happy Mother's Day!
God bless you and we love you!
Love, **Terence, Renzo, Jomar & Carl**

Mommy Roselle,
Thank you for simply being the best Mom, one could ever have. I love you. Happy Mother's Day.
Josh Lendl

To **Nanay,**
Happy Mother's Day!
You're the best!
From **Tatay, Rodel** & **Ramil**

From **Myk,**
Happy Mother's Day to ***Mommy Virgie*** *and* ***Ate Michelle!***
Advance happy Mother's Day to my wife, ***Lore!***
We love you!

Mommy Iris,
Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for loving us. We love you.
Daddy & **Jed**

To **Nanay Zeny,**
Happy Mother's Day!
From **Dexter, Jason** and **Shenna**

To Nanay Ming,
Happy Mother's Day!
From **Tatay Ping, Rhonnie, Rhandy & Sherry**

You are such a wonderful mother to us!!! Thank you very much Happy Mother Day

We Love You, Mahar, Mara & Kano

Mama Liway,
Happy Mother's Day to a loving and caring MOM from all of us. We love you!
Arnel, Arlene & Atoie

Mama Jane,
Happy Mother' Day to you.
We love you!
Papa Arnel, Jeanelle & Yma

Becky, Sonia & Juliet
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
Love,
Ate Liway & Family

Mother Lulu,
Happy Mother's Day to you!
Love,
Liway, Bheng, Pat, Aileen & Del

Dearest Mama,
You are one of God's greatest gift to us.
Thank you for living up to it. We love you!
Jo-Anne, Marissa, Marie-Ann, Babes & Grace

Mommy Lisa,
Thank you Mom for everything you do. We love you.
Love,
Don & Louie

This message represents my eternal gratitude for all that you do and all that you are... I just want everybody to know how lucky and blessed I am for being your daughter. You may not be perfect but you are surely more than enough. You are way better than the best. As a whole, you're undeniably gorgeous.
Luv u Ma.. Mis you a lot.
Happy Mama's Day!
Joan

Nanay Annavic,
Happy Mother's Day! We love you very much!
Love,
Rooz, Andrew, Ia & Fortune

Ma,
Thank you for always being there for us. Life is the best because you're our mom. We love you.
Love,
Dad, Joy, Chano & Mark (and the doggies)

MAMA ELISA,
WE ARE REALLY LUCKY TO HAVE YOU IN OUR LIVES.
RONROSE, CATHY & EMIL

Mama,
You're the best!

Papa, Tin & Cel
Happy Mother's Day, Mommy, Auntie Connie and Auntie Eva!

DR. ANGELES A. YAP
SUPERMOM!!!
We love you! Thanks for everything.
Papa, Chiara, Shaddie, Kamillah, Te-Anne

Mama & Momy,
Thank u 4 making our life simply amazing!!!
We love you!
Ghol, kim, tito, dady, rocell & r-chie

Dearest Mom,
Happy Mother's Day for being a great mother to all of us!
Love,
Ian, Iris & Tony, Ivy and Ivory

Dear Mommy Del,
Happy Mother's Day! We Love you.
Nonoy, Anton & Katrina

Mama Panching,
Thank you for taking care of us.
Pat, Jay, Rina & Tery

Mommy Cel,
We love you very much. Happy Mother's Day!
Ronald & Paolo

To Mommy Bing Dalmacio,
Happy Mothers' Day' We love you!
From:
Daddy Romy, Cathy, Mylene, RJ and Robert Dalmacio

Nanay,
You're the best!!!
We are so lucky to have you...
We love you!
Ammie & Dennis Ryan, Tin & Yayan Bec & Archie

Mommy Aileen,
Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for loving us.
We love you.
Ambo, Paulo & Pearl

Mommy,
Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for loving us.
We love you
Jay, Rina & Tery

Mommy Jasmine,
To the greatest Mom in the world! We love you Mom! Happy Mother's Day!
Love,
Dad, Jay & Eya, Joan & Neil, Jenny, Jason & Girlie

Waking up early every morning to make breakfast
Spending three hours every Sunday to make your special concoction of juice
Making sure everything is perfect after we leave the house and before we arrive
Supporting us every step of the way.

Just want to let you know we really appreciate all the things you do for us.

Happy Mother's Day!

Love,
DenArnDonKim

A woman who likes to go out and shop,
Carry the latest cellphones,
And talks to us like we were the same age
Happy Mother's Day to the coolest mom in the world!
Love,
SherKerKimDon

Mama Ely,
Words could not say how much you mean to us. Thou we could not always be together, here is our simple way of saying "THANK YOU" for being a Mother to us. HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! We're so proud of you! May the LORD Bless you, give you strength & always keep you in good health! We love you very much.
Anthony, Iris & Jed

Mommy,
Greatest is not enough to describe what you are to us!
From: **Boboy, Ching, Nannie, Jo, Nonoy, Bob, Nene** and **Jaymee, Christy, Randy, Jaanne, Jee, Jeb, Kat, Jam, Jana, Berlo, Eao, Haya,** and **Tictoe, Bea, Bononoy.**

Dear Ma'am Emy,
Mother's Day is more meaningful because of people like you. The times that we've shared together will never be forgotten and will forever be cherished in our hearts...
We love you!!!
Happy Mother's Day!
Love,
Ning, Tin & Joy

Dear Mommy,
A child is God's special gift to a mother but a mother is His best gift to children. We thank God for you, His most precious gift to us. Happy Mother's Day!!!
Love,
Monet, Ruth, Jason & Joy

Dear Mommy,

I Love You Very Much.
Happy Mother's Day
Love,
RR and Daddy

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F A 36 36 sqm
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PASIG

UCPB 20 - CONDO UNIT
F A 105 sqm
U 509 B-09 Hampton Garden C Raymundo Ave
Minimum Bid Price P2 622,000 00

PARAÑAQUE CITY

UCPB 22 - CONDO UNIT
F A 157 sqm
U 908 9 F Chateau De Baie Roxas Blvd
Minimum Bid Price P4 025,000 00

UCPB 23 - RSDL LOT
L A 300 sqm
B Aquino Sr St BF Homes
Minimum Bid Price P1,500,000 00

UCPB 24 - RSDL LOT
L A 524 sqm
J Roxas cor R Reyes St., BF Homes
Minimum Bid Price P2 800,000 00

UCPB 25 - TWNHSE UNIT
F A 226 sqm
#73 Unit 5 VJ Town Homes
Minimum Bid Price P2 600 000 00

UCPB 26 - RDSL LOT
L A 360 sqm
#09 N Jacinto St BF Classic Vill
Minimum Bid Price P4 900 000 00

QUEZON CITY

UCPB 29 - CONDO UNIT
F A 121sqm
Unit 303 Whitehasco
Araneta Ave cor Bayani St
Minimum Bid Price P1 815 000 00

UCPB 30 - CONDO UNIT
L A 54 sqm
Unit 18 St Dionicio Royale
Exec Homes
Green Vale Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P1,600 000 00

UCPB 35 - TOWNHOUSE
L A 85sqm L11 B2 Isabella Place
Hobart Subd
Minimum Bid Price P1 866,265 00

GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN

UCPB 43 - CONDO UNIT
F A 188sqm
Unit 22-B Platinum 2000
Minimum Bid Price P6 070 000 00

VALENZUELA CITY

UCPB 44 - RDSL LOT
L A 192sqm
#63 Santana St Sta Luca Vita, Brgy Ventu Reales
Minimum Bid Price P690,000 00

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

UCPB 46 - RSDL LOT
L A 350 sqm
L11 B5 Sedringham St
Barrington Place Bgy Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P1 435 000 00

UCPB 48 - RSDL LOT
L A 834 sqm
L5 B2 Selford St
Town & Country Estate
Bo Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P3,170,000 00

UCPB 50 - RSDL LOT
L A 640 sqm
L4 B4 Parkridge Executive Village
Bo Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P1,026,500 00

UCPB 52 - RSDL LOT
L A 366 sqm
L15 B29 Main Road
(Rd Lot 44 Forest Hill Phse 1)
Minimum Bid Price P1 098 000 00

UCPB 54 - RSDL LOT
L A 674 sqm
L55 & 54 B50 Camaro St
Vill East Executive Homes Cainta
Minimum Bid Price P2 735 000 00

UCPB 58 - RSDL LOT
L A 216 sqm
L6 B3 Foliage Hills
Minimum Bid Price P864,000 00

UCPB 59 - RSDL LOT
L A 168 sqm
L20 B1 Hills of Maia Alta
Minimum Bid Price P672,000 00

UCPB 61 - RSDL LOT
L A 385 sqm
L3 B1 Cottonwood Heights Subd
Minimum Bid Price P1,540,000 00

BULACAN

UCPB 65 - HOUSE & LOT
L A 324 sqm
L6&9 B7 378 Opal St
Villacor Vill Bgy Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price P3,200 000 00

UCPB 66 - HOUSE & LOT
L A 221 sqm
3rd St Bo Fatima,
Sapang Palay SJDM
Minimum Bid Price P400,000 00

UCPB 67 - HOUSE & LOT
L A 1 628 sqm
L33 B2 Area A Sapang Palay SJDM
Minimum Bid Price P3,000 000 00

UCPB 68 - HOUSE & LOT
L A 297 sqm
L1 B58 Area C Sapang Palay SJDM
Minimum Bid Price P600,000 00

UCPB 69 - RSDL LOT
L A 2 778 sqm
L364 & 365 Maharlika Highway
Bgy Longos Pulilan
Minimum Bid Price P3,250,000 00

UCPB 71 - HOUSE & LOT
L A 347 sqm
L20 B27 Along Assumption Road
Area C Sapang Palay SJDM
Minimum Bid Price P575,000 00

UCPB 73 - RSDL LOT
L A 100 sqm
L2 B15 Ayukt Subdivision
Bgy Binang 2nd Turo Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price P287 421 90

CAVITE

UCPB 75 - RSDL LOT
L A 534 sqm
L172 B54 Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price P2,670,000 00

UCPB 78 - RSDL LOT
L A 1 000sqm
L13 B12 Rodeo Country Estate Subd
Minimum Bid Price P800 000 00

UCPB 81 - CONDO UNIT
F A 71 sqm
Unit 618 Vista De Loro Height, Puerto Azul
Minimum Bid Price P2,700,000 00

UCPB 82 - RSDL LOT
L A 529 sqm
L 6 4&2 B6 No 44 Sampaguita St
Mann De Pones Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P3,500,000 00

ILOILO

UCPB 84 - RSDL LOT
LA 704 sqm
B 129 Along Puentes & Do Guelle Streets Bgy San Agustin City Proper
Minimum Bid Price P7 040,000 00

UCPB 86 - RSDL LOT
LA 963 sqm
B4 L7 9 10 Along Dona Luz Ave & Cadena De Amor St Don Francisco
Minimum Bid Price P2 260,000 00

CALAMBA, LAGUNA

UCPB 91 - RSDL LOT
L A 528 sqm
Palaco Real Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P1,425 600 00

UCPB 92 - RESORT BLDG
L A 300 sqm
L5 H-9 Mana Making Village
Bo Pansol
Minimum Bid Price P4 000,000 00

PILA, LAGUNA

UCPB 93 - RSDL LOT
L A 231 sqm
L1 & L2 B 3 Adelina Compound
Sta Clara Norte
Minimum Bid Price P250 000 00

UCPB 95 - RSDL LOT
L A 300 sqm
L 2639 C-2 Don Regino Sts
Greenland Subd Bgy Sta Clara
Minimum Bid Price P1,000 000 00

UCPB 96 - RSDL LOT
L A 458 sqm
with Ocampo Compound
Sta Clara Sur
Minimum Bid Price P500 000 00

UCPB 97 - RSDL LOT
L A 720 sqm
L 4-D along Diversion Road
Butihan Norte
Minimum Bid Price P1 800 000 00

SAN PABLO, LAGUNA

UCPB 99 - RSDL LOT
L A 271 sqm
along Road Lot 7 & 9
Richwood Park Vil1
Minimum Bid Price P487 800 00

UCPB 102 - RSDL LOT
L A 256 sqm
along S Brucal Avenue
Green Valley Subd San Francisco
Minimum Bid Price P358 400 00

TERESA, RIZAL

UCPB 109 - RSDL LOT
L A 1 500 sqm
along Bgy Rd Bgy May-iba Teresa
Minimum Bid Price P1 730 000 00

LUCENA CITY

UCPB 110 - RSDL LOT
L A 180 sqm
L22 B11 #19 along Bolivia St
Butter Living Subd. Isabang
Minimum Bid Price P1,184,000 00

UCPB 111 - COMML LOT
L A 1 410 sqm
Purok Matahimik Brgy Cotta
Minimum Bid Price P4,910,000 00

UCPB 112 - RSDL LOT
L A 194 sqm
L 4734-C-A 2 Along Trinidan St
Barangay XI Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P1,746,000 00

TAGAYTAY CITY

UCPB 113 - TWNHSE
F A 112 sqm
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Poblacion
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LOS BANOS Hse & Lot 414sqm PANSOL 3M 0917-3380468

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2Bdrms 1T&B FA 61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

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QUEZON CITY

Apt Proj.8 4&7drs U/D 778-1541

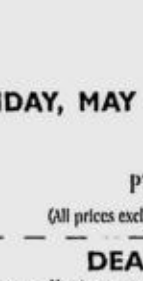
LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

LOT

QUEZON CITY



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QUEZON CITY

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BATANGAS

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Rush 4575653 09185345359

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL LA 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA 120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

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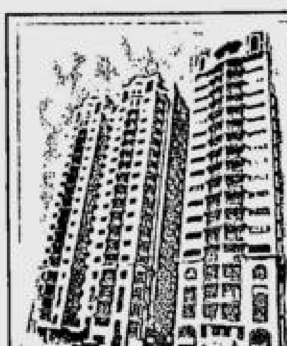
CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA



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QUEZON CITY

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HOUSE

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QUEZON CITY

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3BR w/grg & Tel nr SM 7152251

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The following are the minimum qualifications:

1. Earned Doctoral Degree;
2. At least ten (10) years of successful leadership and administrative/managerial experience in higher education/business corporation;
3. Has no record of final conviction of criminal, civil or administrative cases;
4. Must be a Filipino of good moral character; and
5. Not more than sixty (60) years old at the time of application.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, applicants are required to submit in seven (7) sets the following documents:

1. Letter of Intent;
2. Detailed curriculum vitae and authenticated supporting documents;
3. Certification of good moral character and team building from head of agency, corporation, etc.;
4. Mission, Vision and Thrusts for JRMSC;
5. Two (2) copies of 2x2 recent ID pictures;
6. Neuro-Psychiatric Exam and Medical Certificate;
7. NBI Clearance;
8. Duly notarized affidavit that applicant has 10 years leadership/administrative/managerial experience; and
9. Certification of Performance Rating as Leader/Administrator/Manager of his present employment. This certification has to be signed by the President/Gen. Manager of the school or business corporation, etc.

Applicants are requested to submit their application on or before May 31, 2004 to:

MSGR. WILSON P. CADANO
Chair, Search Committee for President
c/o St. Isidore Parish
Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte

Failure to submit the required documents on time will mean disqualification of the applicant.

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Hu Do u knw In Singapore? 8531008 09178901851 earnextranow.com Code: ATB2004

Hair Salon Franchise at SM MALL Nationwide Text • 0917-8398638

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RTW Consign 09167940002

Seeking serious biz partners with ready capital of not less than P17,000 to be part of an Int'l Biz that's expanding to US, Canada, etc, with a group of biz leaders from Singapore. No Texting. Call 09275680230.

Start ur own Laundry Business w/ seminar Call (02)6303609

WORK FROM HOME 8376068

WANTED
Sales Counter Girl

- At least 2nd year college
- 20-25 years old, female
- Willing to work long hours

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Restaurant/Deli along Jupiter St. Makati For Sale Call ...-1592 Cell 0919-5561912

DEALERSHIP

Green Iced Tea 09178951579

DIRECT SALE

SIDELINE: JEWELRY CONSIGN ORIENTATION M-S@8-8 4531478

WANTED TO BUY

CAP, TPG EDUC PLAN 2526373

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

•MACHINE OPERATOR• at least High School Graduate Mandaluyong resident Call 5334146

FEMALE

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GRAPHICS ARTIST Knowledge of CorelDraw, Photoshop, Win 98 374-0756

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8705354

NURSE FOR PRIVATE DUTY FEMALE LICENSE W REFERENCE ALL 711-8680, 301-0851

MALE/FEMALE

4 A Person Want 2 Earn P15T or more 6376276-77

BSBA graduate major in Marketing Call 936-09-57 / 0919-635-3254

Dentist 338-7970 Doris

English/Chemistry Teachers Zion S: 3557939 / 6568119

F. Acctg 046-9732370 Cavite

F. Acctg 510-0915 Pasay

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HIRING LOAN AGENTS EARN HIGH COMMISSION 9957157 /9957160 M-F 10-5PM

JOB HIRING 09167054572 AINA

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

NEED ASAP
2-Acct. Exec.(Travel Agency)
1-Resa/Ticketing
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Apply at 1089 V.Cruz Manila •524-1477 • 522-8260•

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School Nurse with computer background & Accountant /Bookkeeper Call 532-7316

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235-C Mercan Bldg Edsa Ext Pasay City Bring ID & Resume Pls Clip Ads Look for Mariah K.

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ACCOUNTING CLERK
preferably SINGLE
for more info pls. call 825-3852 look for Jenny or Chito

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE BOOKS
Free books explains the way of Islam in Two languages (English, Tagalog)
For more information, please write clearly in English to: Almanat, P.O. Box 15391 Riyadh 11444 Saudi Arabia Email:amt055@hotmail.com

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given of the estate of the late DIOSCORO F. FETALVERO, SR. was extra-judicially settled among the heirs as per Doc81 Page18 BookXVI Series2003 before Notary Public Atty. Renato R. Devera of Quezon City
PDI-April 25, May 2&9, 2004

Notice is given of the estate of the late FREDISVENDA F. FETALVERO was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc86 Page19 BookXIV Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Rodelio I. Sergio of Quezon City
PDI-April 25, May 2&9, 2004

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Work with a Success coach from Singapore coming to Philippines for the first time. email for appointment:
successcoach@L88edc.com

NOTICE OF LOSS

5/6/04

Notice is hereby given to the public that O.R. nos 8685201 250=50pcs. 8717751-800=50pcs. 8717650=1pc. 8686530 550=21pcs & 8686229-250=22pcs were lost; therefore, any use of the said O.R. has no force and effect

Eleanor Mujar-Principal
Dolores Sadueste-Teacher
Libon Agro-Industrial High Schoc

(PDI - May 9, 2004)

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NEW ZEALAND MILK PHILS., INC.
19/F Cyber One Tower, 1-1-Eastwood Avenue,
Eastwood City Cyber Park, Quezon City
Tel. No. 688-1696 Fax No. 688-1687

INVITATION TO ALL BIDDERS

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
(1) STANDY GENERATOR SET	MULTICO PERKINS 313 KVA W/ TRAILER (SLIGHTLY USED)	P 800,000

Application is open to all parties interested. There will be a non-refundable deposit of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00). Please submit your sealed bids with the payment enclosed at the above address on or before **April 14, 2004**. For those who wants check out the machine, you can visit the New Zealand Milk warehouse at Unit 303 Central Business Park, Amang Rodriquez Ave., Manggahan, Pasig City. Look for the guard on duty to assist you.

(PDI - May 9, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NO COMPROMISE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN MARCBILT REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MRDC), RHODORA MOJICA AND LGTM CORPORATION BECAUSE OF LGTM CORP.'S LACK OF FUNDS TO MAKE INITIAL PAYMENT TO THE DEVELOPER MRDC. CONSEQUENTLY, THE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT DATED NOVEMBER 14, 1995 BETWEEN MRDC AND RHODORA MOJICA, OWNER OF THE 50,000 SQUARE METER LAND AT THE SO CALLED ST. JULIANNE HOMES, MUNTING MAPINO, NAIC, CAVITE, REMAINS SUBSISTING. THE SUIT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTION WHICH HAD BEEN FILED BY MRDC AGAINST RHODORA MOJICA AND LGTM INVOKING SAID JOINT VENTURE CONTRACT UNDER CIVIL CASE NO. 68639 IS STILL PENDING BEFORE THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) OF PASIG CITY AS WELL AS THE COMPLAINT FOR ESTAFA AND VIOLATION OF P.D. 957 AGAINST LGTM'S PRESIDENT TEODORO N. CAMACHO IV.

ANY PERSON BUYING/DEALING WITH LGTM AND/OR MOJICA IN RELATION TO SAID PROPERTY IN DISPUTE DOES SO SUBJECT TO THE FINAL OUTCOME OF SAID CIVIL CASE NO. 68639. FURTHERMORE, LGTM HAS NO LICENSE TO SELL FROM HLURB AS WOULD AUTHORIZE IT TO SELL THE LOTS TO THE BUYING PUBLIC.

THE SAME IS TRUE WITH FORCIBLE ENTRY CASE FILED BY MRDC AGAINST MOJICA AND LGTM, THE CASE IS STILL PENDING WITH RTC OF NAIC, CAVITE.

MRDC REPEATS THAT IT HAS CUSTODY OF THE TITLES TO SAID PROPERTIES AS MRDC REMAINS THE SOLE LEGAL DEVELOPER OF THE PROPERTY.

RICARDO J.M. RIVERA LAW OFFICE
Counsel for MRDC
Unit 2001 Jollibee Plaza Condominium
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 6375939 to 40

(PDI May 9, 2004)

WANTED
CANTEEN CONCESSIONAIRE
For Interested Parties, please submit the following requirements:

- Business Permit
- BIR Registration
- Sanitary Permit
- Health Permit
- Medical Certificate of Employees
- DOLE Registration
- List of Current Clients
- Financial Statement

Must have at least three (3) years experience.
Mail all documents to:
The Canteen Committee, SMPP - Manila Glass Plant
Muello dela Industria, Del Pan, Binondo, Manila

HCCA

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We offer a proactive "can do" culture and our positive, creative staff takes pride in achieving success. Come join our dynamic team and experience the reward of making a difference.

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST/ RECRUITER (REC)

The ideal candidate has 3-5 years of experience in recruitment. Preferably male. Responsibilities will include marketing our company to the public, coordinating and planning recruitment events, conducting interviews and presenting company policies and benefits. He is customer oriented, dynamic, has excellent customer service skills, easily multitasks, is highly organized and is proficient in Microsoft Office. Excellent English speaking and writing skills are mandatory.

SENIOR CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (SCSR)

This is the ideal growth position for someone who has 2-3 years of experience as a client liaison or as a Customer Service Representative with a Call Center and is ready for a bigger challenge. Responsibilities will include managing professional relationships, advising our clients, creating social and company events and coordinating marketing campaigns. Recruitment experience is preferred. He or she is customer oriented, has excellent customer service skills, easily multitasks, is highly organized and is proficient in Microsoft office. Excellent English speaking skills are mandatory.

If you meet these requirements, please send your resume with position code and salary requirements to:
HCCA Philippines
33rd floor Tower I The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue Makati /Fax No 757-2000 or thru email address
philippines@hccaintl.com

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Francisco Gold Condominium II EDSA corner Mapagmahal St.,
Diliman Quezon City

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

Date: May 9, 2004

1 The *Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)* received grant assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) thru the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) for the Social Protection for Poor Women Vendors in Mindanao. In particular, the Program requires for the *Construction of the Women Service Center* financed by the proceeds of the grant, for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued.

The *DILG* as the *Implementing Agency* is inviting Category B Medium A Contractors to apply for Prequalification for any of the following contract packages:

Contract Package 1	Mahayag, Zamboanga Del Sur	(Region IX)
Contract Package 2	Ozamis City	(Region X)
Contract Package 3	Panabo City	(Region XI)
Contract Package 4	Cabadbaran, Agusan Del Norte	(CARAGA Region)
Contract Package 5	Parang, Maguindanao	(ARMM)
Contract Package 6	Buluan, Maguindanao	(ARMM)

2 The *DILG* hereinafter referred to as "the Client", intends to prequalify contractors for the following scope of works for each Women Service Center under this Program:
- a Structural
- b Sanitary and Plumbing
- c Electrical Works

3 Prequalification is open to individual firms and/or firms with joint venture agreements with other firms from eligible member countries of ADB.

4 Interested contractors may obtain further information and secure the Prequalification (PQ) Forms directly thru any of the following addresses:

THE DIRECTOR
Office of Project Development Services (OPDS)
Department of Interior and Local Government
5th Floor, A. Francisco Gold Condominium II Building
EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street
Diliman, Quezon City
925-0388, 920-4312, 929-9601 and 929-6227

THE DIRECTOR
DILG Region IX
Zamboanga Convention Center, Pasonanca
Zamboanga City
Tel (062) 992-7969
992-7964
Fax (062) 991-6012
991-5235

THE DIRECTOR
DILG Region X
Km 3 Upper Carmen
Cagayan de Oro
Tel (088) 350-9580
Fax (088) 858-2191

THE DIRECTOR
DILG Region XI
58 MacArthur Hway
Matina, Davao City
Tel (082) 297-2701
297-2604
Fax (082) 297-2724

THE DIRECTOR
DILG Region XII
ARMM Complex
Cotabato City
Tel (064) 421-1616
421-1190
421-1191
Fax (064) 421-1189

THE DIRECTOR
DILG ARMM
ARMM Complex
Cotabato City
Tel (064) 421-2178
Fax (064) 421-1379

THE DIRECTOR
DILG CARAGA
Butuan City
Tel (085) 225-5239
Fax (085) 815-2467

A complete set of Prequalification Documents may be secured by interested contractors from the above addresses starting **May 12, 2004**, upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and upon payment of non refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00). The LOI must clearly state Request for Prequalification Forms for the Contruction of the Women Service Center.

The contractors shall submit together with the Prequalification Documents a sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of submission including newly awarded but not yet started contracts, past contracts for the last five (5) years with the corresponding contract amount and three (3) years audited financial statements.

5 Contractors shall submit the Prequalification Documents by hand, by courier or by mail directly to the:

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
Department of the Interior and Local Government
10th Floor, A. Francisco Gold Condominium II Building
EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Pre-qualification Documents should be received on or before 12:00 noon of **June 10, 2004.**

and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for the Construction of the Women Service Center: Contract Package/s

6 Applicants will be advised in writing of the results of the evaluation of their applications at the earliest possible time. Only those who passed the Pre qualification Evaluation will be invited to bid.

(Sgd.) ATTY. AGRIPINO G. MORGA
Undersecretary for Administration and BAC Chairman

(PDI May 9, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

NOTICE OF OVERSTAYING SHIPMENTS

06 May 2004

Notice is hereby given that the following articles imported separately on various dates at the Port of Manila are considered as overstaying shipments, no entries having been filed thereon within thirty (30) days from the date of discharge of the last package from the carrying vessel, or if an entry had been filed, no claim/adjudication was made by their respective consignees/importers or rightful claimants thereof, to wit:

One (1) unit used Sangyong 5-door Pick-up (20% of parts are missing)
Three (3) units used Hyundai Sonata (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Grandeur 2.4 Hyundai
One (1) unit used Kia Besta (30% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Renault 25 V^ (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Daewoo (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Sangyong Mossu 602 EL (30% parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Expedition (20% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Chevrolet (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used GMC (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Toyota Levin (RHD) (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Mercedes Benz 560 SEL (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used BMW 325i (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Ford (50% of parts are missing)
Two (2) units used Mazda Familia (RHD) (80% of parts are missing) junk condition
One (1) unit used Mini Pajero 2 seaters (RHD) (80% of parts are missing) junk condition
One (1) unit used Toyota Estima (RHD) (70% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used Toyota Supra (RHD) (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Audi 2.3E (70% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used Mercedes Benz 260E (80% of parts are missing) junk condition
One (1) unit used Audi 2.0E (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Toyota Celica (RHD) (70% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Pontiac Grandam (70% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Ford Telstar (RHD) (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Rocsta (70% of parts are missing), jeep
One (1) unit used Toyota Van (RHD) (70% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used BMW 3.20i (80% of parts are missing) junk condition
One (1) unit used Toyota Camry (RHD) (80% of parts are missing) junk condition
One (1) unit used Ford Telstar (80% of parts are missing) junk condition
One (1) unit used Korando (50% of parts are missing) jeep
One (1) unit used Nissan Pathfinder (70% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used Intercooler Mitsubishi (RHD) (70% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used Hyundai Grace Van (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Toyota Corolla DX (RHD) (80% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used Intercooler Mitsubishi Pajero (RHD) (80% of parts are missing) junk condition
One (1) unit used Toyota 2.6 (70% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used Daewoo (80% of parts are missing) junk condition
One (1) unit used Hyundai Grace (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Rocsta Jeep (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Mazda MX-6 (RHD) (70% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Mercedez Benz 560 SEL (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Mitsubishi (RHD) (70% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used BMW 325L (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Infinity (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used BMW 245i broken windshield (70% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used HiAce (RHD) (80% of parts are missing), junk condition
One (1) unit used BMW 325 (70% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Subaru (RHD) (70% of parts are missing), semi junk condition
One (1) used Mini Cruiser (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) used Honda Accord (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Mitsubishi Emeraude (RHD) (70% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) used Mitsubishi Van (RHD) 70% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used Toyota Supra (RHD) (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Mercedes Benz 300E (70% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used Hyundai Grace (50% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used Volvo (70% of parts are missing) semi junk condition
One (1) unit used Mercedes Benz 300SEL (70% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Chevrolet Pick-up (50% of parts are missing)
One (1) unit used Toyota Corona in junk condition
One (1) unit used Nissan (Van) in junk condition
One (1) unit used Toyota MR2 in junk condition
One (1) unit used Coaster in junk condition
One (1) unit used FIAT in junk condition
One (1) unit used Mitsubishi Galant in junk condition
Nine (9) units used Daewoo (cars) in junk condition
One (1) unit used Hyundai Grandeur in junk condition

Note: All motor vehicles are located at Pier 13 inside Customs Vehicle Coral/SeaSide.

Failure of the consignee/importer or such other rightful claimant to claim/adjudicate his/her importation within fifteen (15) days from the date of this notification shall be deemed to be a renunciation of all his/her interest and property rights in favor of the government pursuant to Section 1801 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended by RA 7651, and the same shall be sold through public auction pursuant to the provisions of the TCCP and other pertinent rules and regulations.

(Sgd.) Atty. RONNIE C. SILVESTRE
District Collector

(PDI – May 9, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
"GSIS-Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan Maasahan"

NOTICE

(Reinsurance of NAPOCOR Minor Policies)

In connection with the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and To Bid for the reinsurance of National Power Corporation's minor policies, the amended schedule of bidding is as follows:

	ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBILITY & BID DOCUMENTS	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID ENVELOPES
Protection & Indemnity Cover	May 4 to 18, 2004 9:00 am-5:00 pm JBC Secretariat 7th Floor-EPDC Bldg., BSP Complex Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 5, 2004 2:00 pm Board Rm, 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 20, 2004 2:00 pm Office of the Chairman Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila
Motor Car & Marine Open Policy	May 7 to 25, 2004 9:00 am-5:00 pm JBC Secretariat 7th Floor-EPDC Bldg., BSP Complex Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 12, 2004 2:00 pm Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 27, 2004 2:00 pm Office of the Chairman Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila

The submission and opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes previously scheduled on **May 19, 2004** is hereby cancelled.

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing a Letter of Intent to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and payment of a non-refundable fee of US$200.00 for Protection & Indemnity Cover and Php5,000.00 each for Motor Car and Marine Open Policies, to the National Power Corporation; however, for the P&I Cover, bidders who participated in the 1st Bidding shall be exempt from payment of the Bid Fee.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations.

The JBC and EEG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent, waive any defect therein and accept the offer that they deem most advantageous to the government.

EVALUATION & ELIGIBILITY GROUP
DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee

(PDI May 2, 3, 8 & 9, 2004)

DepED Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
5th Floor Bonifacio Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

May 9, 2004

Invitation to Submit Expressions of Interest

Consulting Services for Design, Tendering Assistance and Construction Management of Rehabilitation/Construction of a Two-Storey Division Office Building

The Philippine Government has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the implementation of the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), a project of the Department of Education.

The Government intends to apply part of the proceeds of the above-mentioned loans to payments for consulting services for the design, tendering and construction management in connection with the construction and/or rehabilitation of a two-storey Division office building for the division offices for Cluster 1 as follows:

Province	Scope of Works
Batanes	Repair/Rehabilitation
Kalinga	New Construction
Aurora	New Construction
Benguet	New Construction
NEAP, Baguio	Repair/Rehabilitation

The Department of Education now invites architectural and engineering consulting firms to submit Expressions of Interest containing information on the following: (a) range of relevant consulting services offered, (b) qualification and experience of relevant professional and technical personnel currently maintained, (c) track record and experience of the firm in similar assignment/s including list of major clients served or being served, and (d) other relevant information. On the basis of the above information, shortlisted firms will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals.

Expressions of Interest to offer services to a particular cluster and the required information should be submitted in original and duplicate copy and should be received by the Department of Education at the DepEd Bids and Awards Committee Cordillera Administrative Region, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet no later than the close of the business day of May 28, 2004.

(Sgd.) DELFIN E. SALLIDAO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DepEd Cordillera Administrative Region

(PDI – May 9, 2004)

DepED Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
5th Floor Bonifacio Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

May 9, 2004

Invitation to Submit Expressions of Interest

Consulting Services for Design, Tendering Assistance and Construction Management of Rehabilitation/Construction of a Two-Storey Division Office Building

The Philippine Government has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the implementation of the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), a project of the Department of Education.

The Government intends to apply part of the proceeds of the above-mentioned loans to payments for consulting services for the design, tendering and construction management in connection with the construction and/or rehabilitation of a two-storey Division office building for the division offices for Cluster 2 as follows:

Province	Scope of Works
Negros Oriental	Repair/Rehabilitation
Capiz	New Construction

The Department of Education now invites architectural and engineering consulting firms to submit Expressions of Interest containing information on the following: (a) range of relevant consulting services offered, (b) qualification and experience of relevant professional and technical personnel currently maintained, (c) track record and experience of the firm in similar assignment/s including list of major clients served or being served, and (d) other relevant information. On the basis of the above information, shortlisted firms will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals.

Expressions of Interest to offer services to a particular cluster and the required information should be submitted in original and duplicate copy and should be received by the Department of Education at the DepEd-Region VII Bids and Awards Committee Lahug, Cebu City no later than the close of the business day of May 28, 2004.

(Sgd.) MARCIAL P. DEGAMO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DepEd Region VII

(PDI – May 9, 2004)

DepED Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
5th Floor Bonifacio Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

May 9, 2004

Invitation to Submit Expressions of Interest

Consulting Services for Design, Tendering Assistance and Construction Management of Rehabilitation/Construction of a Two-Storey Division Office Building

The Philippine Government has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the implementation of the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), a project of the Department of Education.

The Government intends to apply part of the proceeds of the above-mentioned loans to payments for consulting services for the design, tendering and construction management in connection with the construction and/or rehabilitation of a two-storey Division office building for the division offices for Cluster 3 as follows:

Province	Scope of Works
Southern Leyte	New Construction
Eastern Samar	New Construction

The Department of Education now invites architectural and engineering consulting firms to submit Expressions of Interest containing information on the following: (a) range of relevant consulting services offered, (b) qualification and experience of relevant professional and technical personnel currently maintained, (c) track record and experience of the firm in similar assignment/s including list of major clients served or being served, and (d) other relevant information. On the basis of the above information, shortlisted firms will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals.

Expressions of Interest to offer services to a particular cluster and the required information should be submitted in original and duplicate copy and should be received by the Department of Education at the DepEd – Region VIII Bids and Awards Committee Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte no later than the close of the business day of May 28, 2004.

(Sgd.) JESUSITA L. ARTECHE
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DepEd – Region VIII

(PDI – May 9, 2004)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications from qualified Philippine private voluntary organizations, non-governmental organizations, not-for-profit organizations and academic institutions or organizations to implement an institutional grant development program to support USAID/Philippines Strategic Objective 2 (SO2): Governance of Economic and legal systems improved through a program entitled Targeted Intervention in Economic Reform and Governance (TIERG) Project. **For-profit Philippine organizations may also submit applications, however, they will not be entitled to receive a fee or profit for this activity.** USAID reserves the right to award more than one application if it is determined to be in USAID's interest to do so.

For the full description of the program and details on how and where to submit the applications, please visit USAID/Philippines website at http://www:usaid-ph.gov or call the Office of Regional Procurement, USAID/Philippines at 552-9800 extensions 9923 or 9924.

(PDI–May 8, 9, 15 & 16, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority in Region VII, with its official address at Banilad, Cebu City, is inviting all interested qualified sack manufacturers/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following empty sack (MTS) requirements for Visayas and Mindanao areas:

	MTS Type	No. of Pieces	Approved Budget for the Contract
1.	Procurement MTS	600,000 maximum	4,418,400.00
2.	Rice Milling MTS	500,000 maximum	3,086,000.00

Summary of Bidding Procedures:

The Bidding shall be governed by RA 9184. A single stage Two Envelope System of evaluation will be adopted. Envelope A shall contain the eligibility requirements as specified in the Instruction to Bidders which will be evaluated in a non-discretionary "Pass" or "Fail" criteria. Only those who complied with all the requirements shall be declared "Eligible" and shall proceed to the next phase which is the opening of Envelope B. Envelope B shall contain the accomplished and signed Bid Form.

Bids will be ranked from lowest to highest to determine the Lowest Calculated Bid. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall undergo post qualification by the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) to verify, validate and ascertain statements made and documents submitted in the eligibility requirements. After which, the bidder shall be declared "Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid" and shall be recommended for awarding of the contract.

(PDI - May 9, 2004)

DepED Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
5th Floor Bonifacio Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

May 9, 2004

Invitation to Submit Expressions of Interest

Consulting Services for Design, Tendering Assistance and Construction Management of Rehabilitation/Construction of a Two-Storey Division Office Building

The Philippine Government has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the implementation of the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), a project of the Department of Education.

The Government intends to apply part of the proceeds of the above-mentioned loans to payments for consulting services for the design, tendering and construction management in connection with the construction and/or rehabilitation of a two-storey Division office building for the division offices for Cluster 4 as follows:

Province	Scope of Works
Agusan Del Sur	New Construction
Zamboanga DS-Sibugay	New Construction

The Department of Education now invites architectural and engineering consulting firms to submit Expressions of Interest containing information on the following: (a) range of relevant consulting services offered, (b) qualification and experience of relevant professional and technical personnel currently maintained, (c) track record and experience of the firm in similar assignment/s including list of major clients served or being served, and (d) other relevant information. On the basis of the above information, shortlisted firms will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals.

Expressions of Interest to offer services to a particular cluster and the required information should be submitted in original and duplicate copy and should be received by the Department of Education at the DepEd – CARAGA Administrative Region Bids and Awards Butuan City no later than the close of the business day of May 28, 2004.

(Sgd.) LUZ S. ALMEDA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DepEd – CARAGA Administrative Region

(PDI – May 9, 2004)

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Call your Mom and get a BayanTel Beauty Bag FREE!

THIS Mother's Day, make her feel special with a phone call and you can even get a BayanTel Beauty Bag with Beauty Touch make-up set from Sara Lee for FREE!

For a minimum of P650.00 worth of calls to any cellphone or NDD calls to a landline on your BayanTel phone from May 1 to 31, 2004, BayanTel subscribers will be entitled to receive a BayanTel Beauty Bag with Beauty Touch make-up set from Sara Lee which contains lipstick, pressed powder and blush-on.

To avail, simply present your statement of account for the month of May 2004 together with a proof of payment or official receipt and any valid ID to any Bayan Center in Metro Manila.

The free BayanTel Beauty Bag is available until July 31, 2004 and can be availed by Metro Manila residential subscribers only.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

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A Reminder from The Commission on Elections

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Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2004

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

20th
Death Anniversary

Tinette Rivera

The family, Inay Veny, Minyong & Encar, Karen & Paul, Claudine, Mark, Nicollo, Pablo & Carlos, and all relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses will be offered at the following Parishes today, May 9, 2004.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, New Manila, Q.C.	*11:00 am*
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati	*12:15 pm*
St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang	*10:00 am*
St. Jerome, Madrigal Center, Alabang	*9:00 am*
St. John Bosco, Pasay Road, Makati	*12:30 am*
Our Lady of Beautiful Love, Merville, Parañaque	*8:00 am*
St. Gregory the Great, Majayjay, Laguna	*8:00 am*
St. Mary Magdalene, Magdalena, Laguna	*8:30 am*
San Lorenzo, Balagtas, Bulacan	*6:00 am*
St. Peter the Apostle, Burol II, Balagtas, Bulacan	*7:00 am*

The Board of Directors of the UP Center for Ethnomusicology
The Faculty and Staff of the UP College of Music

join in their hours of bereavement the family and friends of

José Montserrat Maceda

National Artist

who passed away on 5th of May, 2004 at the age of 87
and whose remains lie in state at the UP College of Music
Abelardo Hall Auditorium

We wish to invite colleagues, former students
and friends to join the community in
daily spiritual and musical offerings at Abelardo Hall

Funeral Mass, UP Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice, May 12 at 10 a.m.
UP College of Music Tribute, May 12 at 8 p.m., Abelardo Hall
National Artist Tribute, Cultural Center of the Philippines, May 13 at 9 a.m.
Interment shall follow at Himlayan Cemetery, Tandang Sora, Q.C.

In Memoriam
Lovingly Remembered on her 1st Death Anniversary

LOURDES PATERNO RESURRECCION

February 12, 1935 - May 11, 2003

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at the following churches:

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, *New Manila, Q.C.*	May 11 - 6:00 p.m.
St. James Parish, *Ayala Alabang*	May 11 - 6:30 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park*	May 11 - 6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills*	May 11 - 6:15 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, *Magallanes*	May 11 - 6:00 p.m.
Marie Eugenie Chapel Assumption, *San Lorenzo*	May 11 - 6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, *Q.C.*	May 11 - 7:30 a.m.

Her family wishes to thank all those who continue
to keep her in their thoughts and prayers.

RAUL B. JAVIER

of Navotas, Metro Manila

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 7, 2004 at the age of 62.

His loving wife **CORAZON**; children **PAUL & PIA**; brothers & sisters; relatives & friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Chapel at Nathan Road, White Plains, Quezon City. He will be moved to the Parish of Sto. Niño Daanghari, Navotas, Metro Manila after the 10:00 am Mass at White Plains on Monday, May 10.

Interment will be on May 12, 2004, Wednesday after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Sto. Niño Parish Church, Navotas, Metro Manila.

Psalm 23:1-2
"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters."

ARIEL SAMANIEGO DAVID

of Lubao, Pampanga & Livingston, New Jersey

peacefully joined his Creator on May 1, 2004 at the age of 67.

His loving wife **Gloria**; children **Cecile, Belina & Elmer**; sons-in-law **Steven & Ignaz**; grandchildren **Alexander, Gabrielle, & Caelin**; sisters **Lulu, Grace & Aida**; brother-in-law **John**; sister-in-law **Emma**; nephews, nieces & other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Lamberta Ramos Vda de Tañga
"Nanay Berta"
of Pateros, Metro Manila

peacefully joined our Lord on
May 08, 2004 at the age of 94.

Her body lies in state at
#22 F. Imson St., Pateros, Metro Manila
Interment will be announced later. Please call for confirmation at 642-4762, 641-3779, 844-7748.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City Tels 231-0721, 231-3192
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"For God so loved the World, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."

—John 3:16

In life we loved you dearly,
in death we promise to do the same
It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you did not go alone
For part of us went with you,
the day God called you home

In Loving Memory

AFFECTIONATELY REMEMBERING THE SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DEARLY BELOVED DADDY

DANILO N. SILVA

September 5, 1948 – May 11, 2002

For his memory, Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on May 11, 2004 at the following churches:

Parish of the Resurrection, BF Homes, Parañaque	5:30 am; 6:30 am & 7:30 pm
Presentation of the Child Jesus, BF Homes, Parañaque	6:00 am 6:45 am & 7:00 pm
Holy Rosary Church, Sun Valley, Parañaque	6:30 am
Chapel of St. Benedict, Alabang	7:30 am & 6:30 pm
St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish, Alabang	6:00 am; 12:15 pm & 6:00 pm
Sta. Clara Parish, Pasay City	6:00 pm
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Pasay City	6:00 am
San Isidro Parish, Pasay City	6:30 pm
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati	12:15 pm
San Ildefonso Parish, Makati	6:00 am
Holy Family Parish, Makati	6:00 am
Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila	12:10 pm
San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila	5:30 pm
Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran	6:45 am
Sta. Clara de Montefalco Parish, Pasig City	7:00 pm
Sta. Rosa de Lima, Pasig City	6:00 am
San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City	7:00 am
San Isidro Labrador Parish Church, Davao City	6:00 am

His loving wife **Juliet**; Nanay **Leony**; daughter **Joy**; son **Dexter** & daughter-in-law **Dionne**; grandchildren **Gleo** & **Joaquin** and relatives request the pious readers especially those whose lives he had touched to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven"
– Ecclesiastes 3:11

Our Dearly Beloved

NIDA SAN PABLO - CHU

Died in the grace and goodness of our Lord on the 8th of May 2004 at the age of 50.

She will be deeply missed by her loving husband **RAFAEL**; children **VIVIENE** and **ERICSSON**; mother **EUGENIA TABINAS vda. de SAN PABLO**; sisters **NORA, NOELA, NOEMI, NELIA** (†); brothers **NELSON, NESTOR, NONOY, BOBOY, AL**; **MAMA BETTY**; brothers/sisters in-law, nephews & nieces, and other relatives. We request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

In lieu of flowers, mass cards for the deceased and donations for the ***BANTAY BATA FOUNDATION*** *and the* ***KAPUSO FOUNDATION*** *will be greatly appreciated.*

In memory of
the First Death Anniversary of

MA. FE MANGUERA-DE LEON

Masses will be offered on May 10, 2004 (Monday) in the following churches:

AIM Chapel, Makati	12:30 pm
Asian Hospital Chapel, Alabang	12:30 pm
Catedral de la Almudena, Madrid, Spain	12:00 pm
Don Bosco Parish, Makati	6:00 pm
Espiritu Santo Parish, Manila	6:00 pm
Holy Family Parish, Las Piñas	7:00 pm
Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Boac	5:30 am
Immaculate Conception Parish, Bauan	6:00 am
San Jose Cathedral, Occ. Mindoro	6:00 pm
Santuario de Santo Cristo, San Juan	6:00 pm
St. James the Great, Alabang	6:30 pm
St. Jerome & Sta. Susana, Alabang	6:00 pm
Sto. Domingo Church, QC	8:00 am
Sto. Niño de Paz, Makati	5:45 pm
Twin Hearts of Jesus and Mary, QC	8:00 am
UST Santisimo Rosario Church, Manila	5:15 pm

In Loving Memory of the First Death Anniversary

Fiscal Archimedes "Medy" R. Pablo

San Marcelino, Zambales

who passed on to the Lord's Mighty Hands on May 9, 2003.

His loving wife **Miguela Arriola Pablo**; his loving children **Agnes** and **Jessie, Alma** and **Joe, Pagasa** and **Luis, Paulina** and **Abel, Antonietta** and **Emmanuel, Carmen** and **Gilbert, Banjo** and **Jenny, Ela** and **Claudio**, grandchildren, great grandchildren and brothers and sisters request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Masses will be celebrated today in San Marcelino, Zambales – 7:00 AM Philippine Independent Church, Bulacan, Quezon City, Parañaque City and Missasuaga, Canada.

TOMAS E. BISMONTE, SR.

of Iriga City

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 1, 2004 at the age of 89.

His bereaved wife **Adelina**; children **Salve** and **Salvio, Sonia** and **Efren, Florence** and **Macoy, Roger** (†) and **Melissa, Mercy** and **Roland, Merly** and **Jet, Tomas Jr.** and **Emma, Catherine** and **Orland, Pio Rhoel** and **Haydee, Narding** (†) and **Alice, Berting** and **Trining, Edith**; grandchildren, brother **Salus** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Camp Aguinaldo Mortuary from May 3-8, 2004 then at Iriga City from May 10-13, 2004.

Interment will follow at Iriga Catholic Cemetery on May 13, 2004.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone No. 743-83-01 to 23

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTANT SERVICES)

Philippines
Second Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project (2WHSMP)
CONSULTING SERVICES
Grant No. TF051880

Request for Expressions of Interest

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a Grant from the Policy and Human Resources Development Fund (PHRD) through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Grant to payments under the contract for the Baseline Research. The services expected to be completed in five (5) months includes Population Based Sample Survey and a Government health facility based survey that utilizes multiple methods of data collection.

The Department of Health now invites eligible consulting firms to express their interest in providing the services. The interested consultants must have the following qualifications: (1) substantial track record in large area survey methods; (2) Experience in the design and implementation of health and health-related studies; (3) the research team should be composed of individuals who have expertise to mount large scale surveys and manage large databases; and (4) knowledgeable with the health care delivery systems in the barangay, municipal and provincial levels especially for women's health care and adolescent/youth reproductive health programs.

The consultant must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of all similar assignments undertaken and experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills of key staff, job capacity of the firm, etc.)

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002).

Expressions of interest and all the requested information from the consultants must be delivered to the address below by no later than **May 12, 2004**.

ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
1st Floor, Bldg. 6, San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel # 7438301 loc. 1601, 1651, 1302, 1304, 1326
Telefax No. 7116665
Email. whsmp@doh.gov.ph

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the afore-given address during office hours

(Sgd) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--May 9, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepED THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
Bids and Award Committee
Division of KALINGA

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
IFB No. KAL – 004SBP - 2004

May 9, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders classified by IAC and PCAB at least Small B for General Building and from eligible source countries as defined in the ***Guidelines: Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov. 1987).***

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following proposed Bid Packages:

Package No. KAL-10-05-45	New Construction of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Classroom TEEP School Building & Repair of One (1) Unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Balawag ES & Repair of One (1) Unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Bado Dangwa ES, all in Municipality of Tabuk, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL-07-02-46	Repair of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Classroom School Building @ Bulo West ES, Bulo West, Tabuk, Kaling & Repair of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Classroom School Building @ Banneng PS, Banneng, Tabuk, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL-03-02-47	Repair of One (1) Unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Tabuk CS, Dagupan, Tabuk, Repair of One (1) Unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Cabaruan ES, Cabaruan, Tabuk and Repair of One (1) Unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Casigayan ES, Casigayan, Tabuk all in the Province of Kalinga.
Package No. KAL-01-01-48	Repair of One (1) Unit – Three (3) Classroom School Building @ Balbalan ES, Balbalan Proper, Balbalan, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL-01-02-49	New Construction of One (1) Unit – One (1) Classroom TEEP School Building @ Balbalan ES, Balbalan Proper, Balbalan, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL-2004-04-04	New Construction of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Classroom TEEP School Building @ Tulgao West PS, Tulgao West, Tinglayan, Kalinga.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at TEEP DPISU Office with address at DepEd Division Office of Kalinga, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga for a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (Php 1,500.00) for each set. A pre-bidding conference will be held at the same address on **May 24, 2004 at 9:00 A.M**. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, TEEP DPISU Office, Department of Education – Division Office of Kalinga, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga on or before **2:00 P.M. of June 8, 2004**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd) **ALFREDO D. BUDADEN**
DBAC chairman

(PDI--May 9, 2004)

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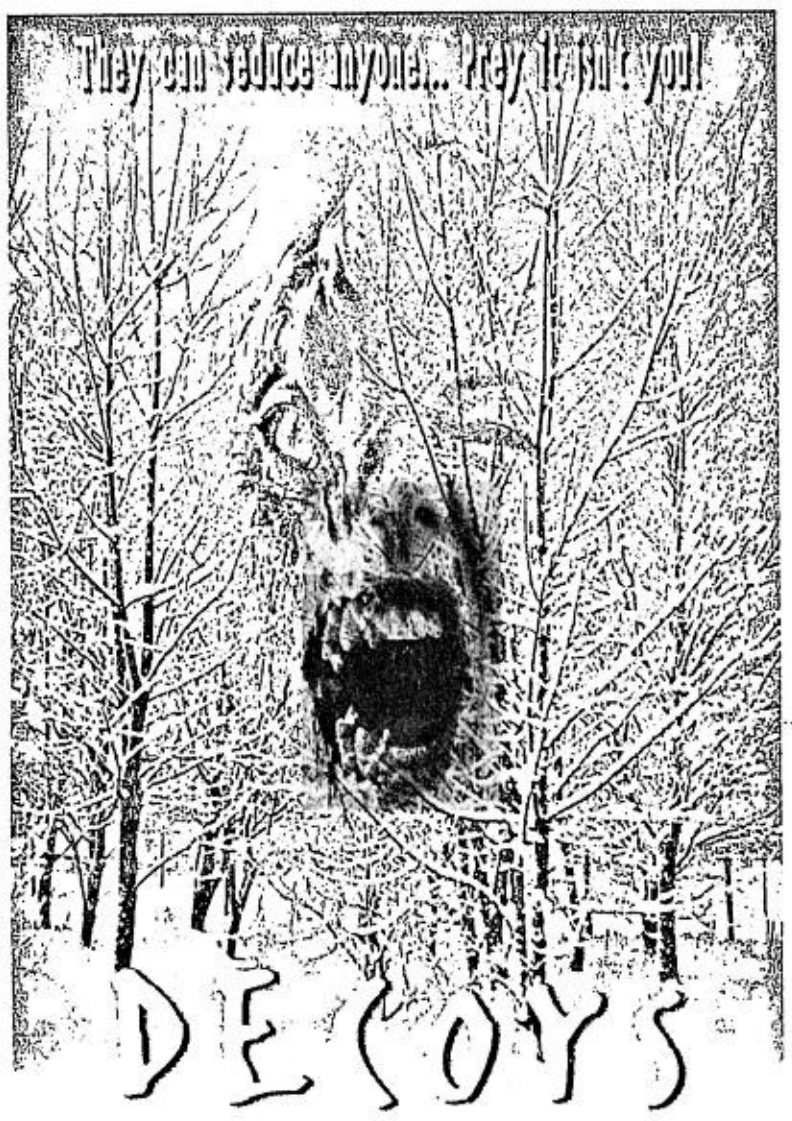

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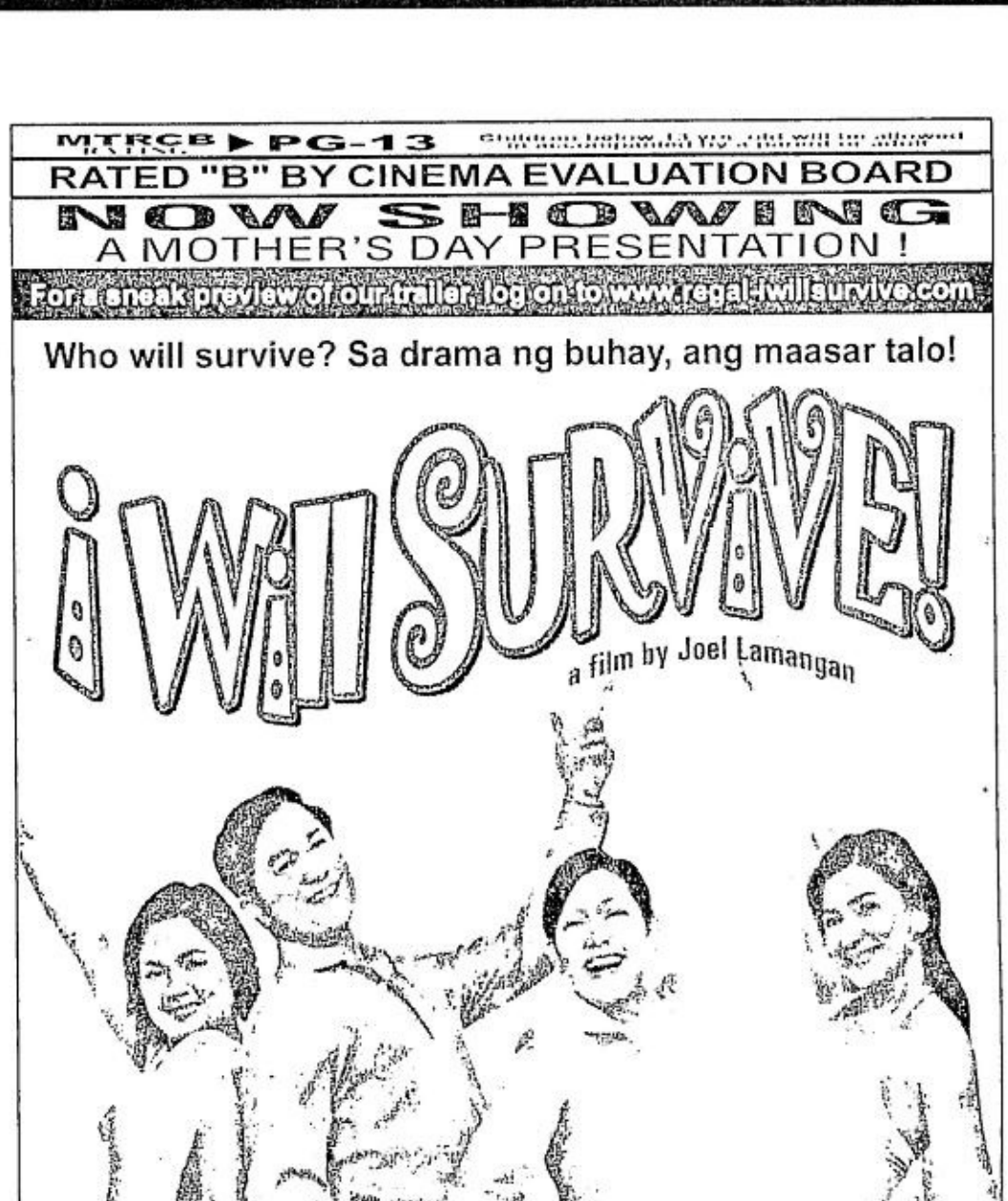

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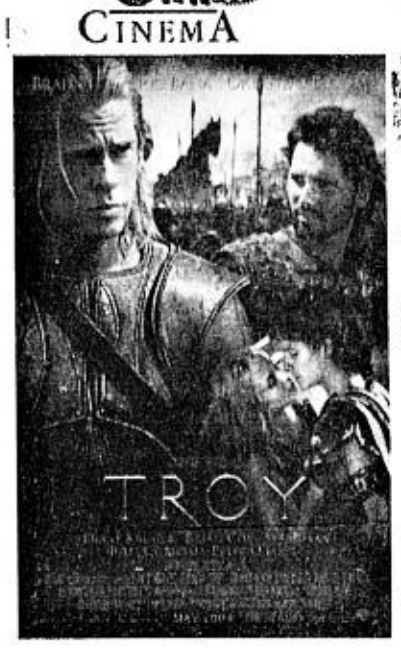

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Good news: Broadcasters make good moms

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

BEING mother and broadcaster can be done at the same time, as shown by Ali Sotto, Luchi Cruz-Valdes, Karen Davila and Kara David.

"All my moments with my daughter is a milestone for me, from the first time I saw her image through ultrasound," says GMA Network reporter and documentary maker Kara David of her 3-year-old Julia. "But I felt proudest when she sang 'I Can,' from the movie 'DoReMi,' on her last birthday. I'd been humming that song to her since she was a baby and I was stunned to realize that she had picked it up."

Kara also can't forget the time she realized that Julia already knew how to write her name. "The pre-school teacher was surprised at a drawing done by Julia because she had also written her name on it," the mom gushes. "So of course I was near tears with happiness as I brought home my daughter's artworks."

KARA and Julia

KAREN and David

ALI and the late Miko, with his gift pet

LUCHI with Joseph, Joachim and Johann

Proud moments

Karen Davila, co-host of ABS CBN's "The Insider" and reporter on "The Correspondents," shares that the moments she felt proudest being a mother to 2-year-and-two-month-old David came in phases. "The most recent was when he first said 'Mama,'" she beams. "When you give birth, you are elated of course, but your child doesn't know you yet. So it's a different feeling when he starts recognizing you. There's nothing like being embraced by your son in a crowd and when he's snuggling against you. He cries when I leave the house. He wants to be with me all the time.

"I'm glad that God chose women to bear and rear children," she adds. "I agree with Oprah when she said that the most important role is being a mother."

She says she and her husband DJ Sta. Ana plan to have another baby only after David turns five. "In my profession, you can't have many kids," she explains. "And I want to personally supervise their growth. I want to be close to all of my children."

Luchi Cruz-Valdes, ABS-CBN vice president for news operations and host-reporter of "Special Assignment," may have won accolades for her eye-opening stories for "The Probe Team" and "I-Witness" before, but what really warms her heart is anything that involves her kids—Joseph, 13, Joachim, 10, and Johann, 1.

"When I hear my eldest son play Bach's solo partita so well," she says, enumerating those heart-warming times. "When my second son slips a note in my bag wishing me a stress-free day. And when I hear my one-year-old call out 'Mama' and 'Dadee' so sweetly. That's when I feel like one proud mama."

She points out with pride that Joseph is one of Promil's gifted children in its media campaigns. "He plays the violin," she says.

Letting go

The memories of her sons' first days of school will be forever etched in her mind, says Ali Sotto, the singer-actress who now hosts ABC 5's news-commentary program, "Sentro."

"Those were the times when my maternal instinct was at its peak," says Ali. "They were trying their best. They showed me off in school. They were very proud of me. And they were so dependent on me. They held on to my skirt."

Raising her sons Chino, 23, and Miko, who would have been 22 tomorrow, was very challenging, she says. "They were very physical and rowdy. It didn't help that they were opposites. Chino is an introvert and Miko was an extrovert. I would tell Chino to get up from the couch and go out, while I'd be wondering where Miko was."

Ali says she took it hard when her boys started getting independent. "I'm a typical Pinay mother," she sighs. "I tended to overprotect my kids. I provided for all their needs all their growing-up years and it was just so hard to let go. Not that I didn't trust them; it's the real world that I was worried about."

Since Miko's death in an accidental fall last December, Ali's heart has been in shreds. "But you have to deal with it. I'm spiritual. God had it all planned. I miss Miko. I tell him, 'Hey, Miko, please ease the pain.'"

Chino has promised Ali he would come home after he completes his postgraduate studies in the United States.

Nick Joaquin outstanding at everything he did

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST April 29, we were conducting the final class in our Playwright Development Initiative workshop at the CCP, and we asked our students about the Filipino playwrights they held in high regard. They cited about half a dozen names, but **Nick Joaquin** was blithely overlooked.

We understood, of course, that many of these students were in their teens and 20s, so they were mainly exposed to younger literary influences. Still, we told them that it was a crying shame that they didn't know and thus didn't value Joaquin's brilliance, and his influence on our artistic and cultural scene. We told our students that, if they wanted the best role models to emulate as playwrights, they should read and appreciate the plays of Joaquin, whom we described as a seminal artist, and a major influence in our own development as a scriptwriter.

About an hour after that lecture, one of our students, **Rica Arevalo**, spoke up to share the text message she had just received: Nick Joaquin passed away early that morning. Silence fell on the class as we took the sad news in. Was it only a coincidence that we had been talking about Philippine letters' brilliant, boisterous octogenarian on the very morning that he had died?

To our mind, it was only a spontaneous manifestation of how vividly and indelibly Joaquin's artistic gift and temperament had fixed itself onto the nation's cultural matrix.

We were privileged to know Joaquin as a helpful mentor. We were still wet behind our ears when our first piece was accepted for publication by the Philippine Free Press, of which Joaquin was one of the editors. Instead of just paying us for our contribution, the Free Press bosses sent word that they wanted us to drop by their office.

NICK/ C2

See'mall!

AYALA CINEMAS

ATC (Alabang Town Center)	G1 (Glorietta 1)	G4 (Glorietta 4)		GB3 (Greenbelt 5)	ACC (Ayala Center Cebu)
1 THE VAN HELSING	1 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	1 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	5 VAN HELSING	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 THE VAN HELSING 2 25, 5 10, 7 55, 10 40	1 VAN HELSING
2 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	2 VAN HELSING	2 STARSKY & HUTCH	6 VAN HELSING	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE VAN HELSING 3 05, 5 50, 8 35, 11 20	2 HELLBOY
3 STARSKY & HUTCH	3 VAN HELSING	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE VAN HELSING 12 10, 3 00, 5 50, 8 40, 11 30	7 MAN ON FIRE	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 VAN HELSING 1 00, 3 45, 6 30, 9 15, 12 00	3 SCHOOL OF ROCK
4 SCHOOL OF ROCK		4 SCHOOL OF ROCK		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 STARSKY & HUTCH 1 50, 4 00, 6 10, 8 20, 10 30	4 I WILL SURVIVE
5 VAN HELSING	4 I WILL SURVIVE	GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE... 1 10, 3 10, 5 10, ...	5 PAYCHECK
		1 I WILL SURVIVE 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30			
		2 VAN HELSING 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00			

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Akbayan and Risa Hontiveros

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

RISA Hontiveros-Baraquel—yes, sister to **Pia Hontiveros** of "Strictly Politics"—is not your ordinary pretty face.

She actually has a life well-lived: four kids, the eldest of them 11 and the youngest 2; a husband who debates with her but will always root for her in the end; membership in Akbayan, a party-list group she absolutely believes in; and a face now white, no longer from *mestiza* genes but from no sleep, and a once good-for-TV skin gone erupting.

Risa is not one to settle for the cushy and the secure. She could be a top anchor on television today, if she'd wanted that. In '94, the KBP already recognized her as the country's best female newscaster with its Golden Dove award. And she's done them all: news, public affairs, and women's causes for Channels 9, 2, 13, 7, 4 and 21, in that order, with her stint at 13 as executive producer of "Public Life with Randy David" her much treasured period. But, as she is wont, she leaves when she has to.

"Public Life," for instance, became a big blow for her when, one fine day, the station simply gave up on the show because it lacked ads. After a few more stints on TV, deciding the ratings game had taken much of the joy away, Risa left for good.

"The country needs a real public broadcasting industry," she now says, rather intensely. "There should be enough visionaries to take a stand, pay a price, to make television reflect, critique, recreate Filipino culture, instead of mindlessly being a copy of what is out there."

But lest entertainment junkies die, let it be known that Risa does think: "It's criminal to bore the audience."

Feet on the ground

This kind of open, well-rounded and sane thinking is what I've always found catchy about Risa. For one thing, she is intense but wears no blinders. She has been a peace advocate since she was 17—she is now 36—and is a member of the government panel negotiating peace with the armed Left. But even as she remains a serious peace advocate, she has serious misgivings about the GMA government's good faith (it did mount an offensive against the MILF at the very moment it was conducting peace talks), and has serious doubts about the Left's own (it did announce the collection of permit-to-campaign fees from anyone wanting to reach the people in its territories, ostensibly under pain of death).

For another, she does not bend the rules to suit her station. Risa is today running as party-list representative under Akbayan, which, by the way, is the reason for her skin eruptions. She's stumping all over the country, because she hasn't got TV. Akbayan has money for only eight 15-second spots, or a grand total of two minutes on TV! (The law allows for 120 minutes.)

She could have tapped into her old media connections very easily. But Risa's position is that there is something "unethical" about all this. She goes into how a media person, having inordinate influence on public opinion, should *not* be using such a position of trust to advance a political career. At the same time, she adds, an elected politician should *not* dabble in media work at all, as this turns his government service into a part-time job.

And so: just two minutes of air time!

Risa is first a fine person, and only second, a political animal. For instance, asked how she might handle working with **Imee Marcos** in Congress, she thinks very hard, then says, "I have to remember that she's a human being. But I would have to challenge her to redeem herself, to become a different Marcos."

That couldn't have been easy for Risa to say. After all, this is someone who was an activist since second year high school, whose list of favorite persons includes The Grand Old Man **Lorenzo Tanada**, who guarded ballots for Cory, and who has, rather plainly, lived a life that could not have stayed silent the presence of an autocrat. And Imee is that autocrat's flesh and blood.

It takes someone like Risa—with her years of activism and a lifetime of grace—to survive, intact, in a Congress made up of the worst and the best. And, should Akbayan get its 1.2 million votes, I honestly think the only sign we'll have that Risa is again under tremendous stress will be the two or three tiny eruptions on her pretty face.

Nick Joaquin outstanding . . .

From page C1

When we did, the editors, including Joaquin, dazzled us with a little ceremony of shaking hands, small talk, an office tour, and an invitation to write more pieces for them.

We were both thrilled and humbled. Here were all these great men and women of Philippine letters, and journalism, taking time to make this new writer feel appreciated and welcome. Such generosity!

After that memorable welcome, we would occasionally interact with Joaquin at Indios Bravos, and we made it a point to catch productions of all of his plays, including different stagings of his signature "Portrait."

When PETA mounted its Filipino version of the play, translator **Mauro Avena** told us that he was at a loss for a Tagalog title for his translation, and we suggested "Larawan," which was the title he ended up using.

While "Portrait" was Joaquin's most celebrated play, we found his "Mga Ama, Mga Anak" even more compelling, especially when PETA staged it with a topnotch cast of acting greats. The play should be mounted again soon, as a tribute to the recently departed master playwright.

But the great thing about Joaquin was, he was outstanding at everything he did, and playwriting was just one of his breathtakingly diverse talents. We were big fans of his "literary journalism" pieces, which pushed back the traditional limits on the local newspapering scene.

Above all, Joaquin dazzled us because he wore his crown lightly—even tilting it naughtily when he was pleasantly pickled. And yet, contrastingly, intimations of the young seminarian he once was would occasionally come through.

Nick Joaquin spoiled us by surviving so many of his contemporaries as well as his contemporaries' students—so, we thought he would live forever. He hasn't, but his genius will!

SUBOK NA SA HALALAN.

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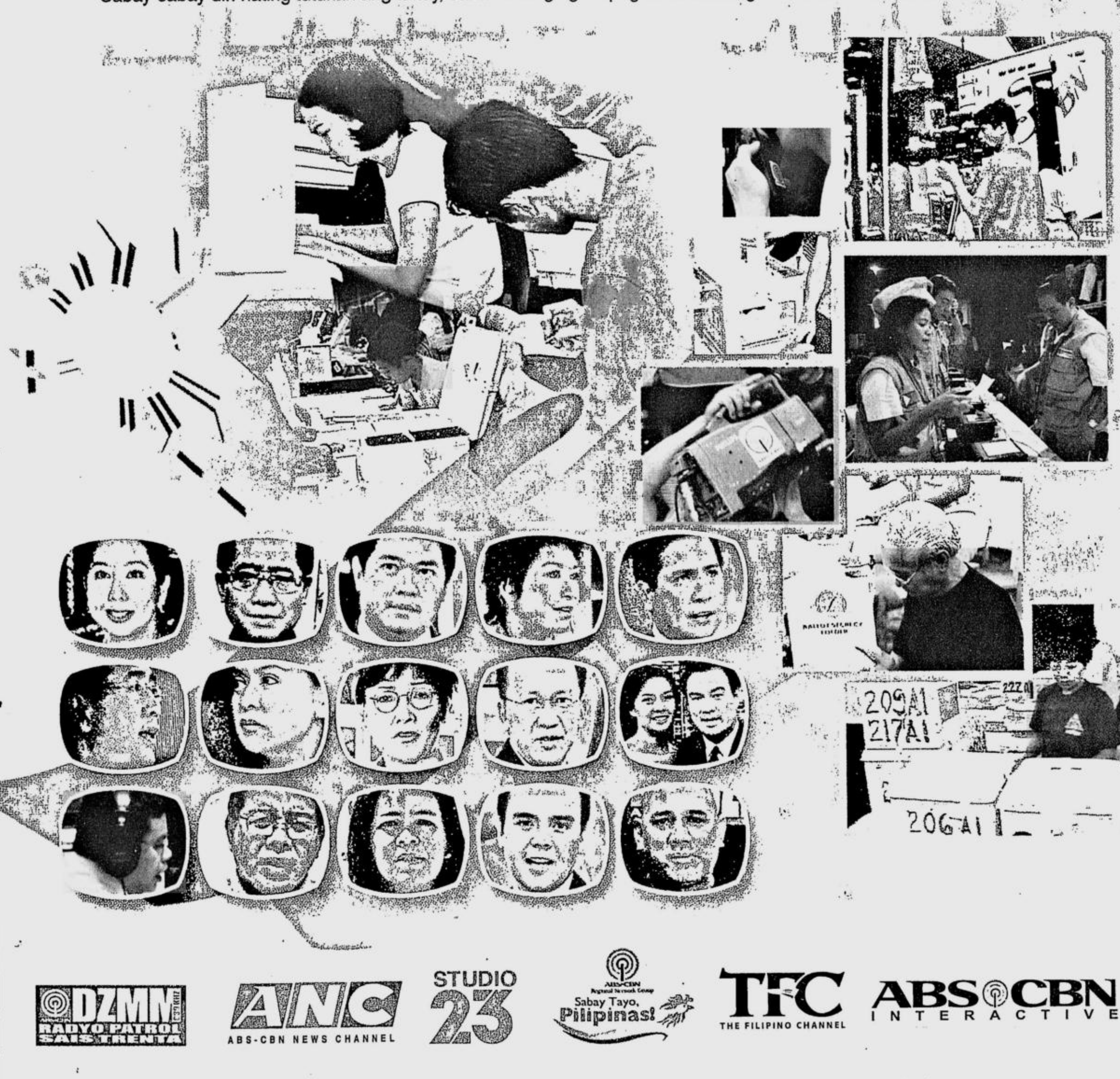

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daughter of **Jovencia Rojas Banal**

Mothers of champions

Today being Mom's Day, we feature seven mothers of superjocks. Mostly benchwarmers themselves, they all have shown a keen interest in the games their children play. They've covered all the bases in bringing up their champs—fitness, faith, family values—and added that one thing moms are famous for: tenderness.

DIONISIA Pacquiao with son Manny PDI PHOTO

The greatest bout of her life

Dionisia Pacquiao, mother of world featherweight champion Manny, has learned to live with the hardships of single parenthood

By Aquiles Z. Zonio,
***son of* Veronica V. Zonio**

SHE was thrice abandoned by men she had loved: first, her father, then her first and second husbands. But there is no trace of regret or bitterness in her face. How can there be when you're the mother of the world's featherweight champion?

Dionisia Dapigran Pacquiao, 55, mother of Manny Pacquiao, says she has learned to live with the pain and hardships of being a single parent.

Her fervent desire to keep her children together gave her the courage to bury her bitter past and face the future with strength, vigor and optimism.

All her children have their own families, expect for Rogelio, 21, the youngest who has just finished college. Her toils and sacrifices to see them through seem to have paid off so far.

Nowadays, she stays home and spends most of her time enjoying the videoke or watching television. All her needs are being provided for by Manny, who is scheduled to box against WBA and IBF featherweight champion Juan Marquez of Mexico today.

Broken family

Dionisia herself comes from a broken family. Her mother, Cristina Mejia Dapigran, 82, was a battered wife. Dionisia, the third of nine children, takes care of her to this day.

The kids were still young when their father abandoned them, so Cristina worked hard to provide for their basic needs. It was from her mother that Dionisia learned the virtues of fortitude, patience, humility and hard work.

Dionisia's first husband, Alfonso Silvestre, left her for another woman while she was two months pregnant with her second child, Domingo. She was then living with her mother in Barangay Tango, Glan town in Sarangani Province. To this day, Dionisia says Domingo, now 33, has no idea what his father looks like.

To support her children, Dionisia baked doughnuts and other native delicacies and sold these in the neighborhood.

After about four years, Dionisia decided to marry again. She wanted more children, so she married Rosalio Pacquiao in 1975. From Glan, the family moved to Barangay Labangal in General Santos City.

Rosalio worked as a laborer at the city public market while Dionisia took care of the children and the home. After 19 years of togetherness, her husband went to Tampakan town in South Cotabato sometime to tend to a farm. Dionisia was later shocked to learn that her husband was living with another woman. She said it was the most painful and unbearable part of her life.

Despite the bitter turns of her married life, Dionisia was protective of her husband's image. She believed that anything bad she would say about Rosalio would ultimately affect their children.

"Let the past remain deeply buried in my heart. Anyway, if not for our marriage, there would have been no Manny Pacquiao. I wanted my children to remain proud of their father," she says in the vernacular.

To survive, Dionisia worked in a factory and sold *kakanin* in the neighborhood. Manny, then a 16-year-old amateur boxer, went to Manila to hone his boxing skills.

She recalled how Manny helped ends meet by regularly sending money. Her two other sons, Bobby, now also a professional boxer, and Rogelio, used to sell cellophane bags at the public market to augment her meager income.

THE GREATEST/ D2

From Ma's lap to champ's pool

Malou Dacanay is bemedalled swimmer Luica's model of hard work and independence

By Rowena C. Burgos,
daughter of Zenaida Cruz Burgos

WITH MORE than 30 gold medals and so many other awards under her belt, swimmer Luica Dacanay has undoubtedly arrived. But it has not been a solo effort for one of the country's young star athletes. She has always counted on the love and support of her mother, Malou.

Although it's her dad Camilo, a former varsity swimmer, who ignited in Luica the passion for swimming and accompanies Luica to her daily training and out of town and international competitions, the latter considers her mom "a key pillar in my life."

"Mom is a friend with whom I can share my problems in swimming and peer pressure. She's always there to listen. We often go shopping together then talk about swimming, my studies and friends," says Luica.

"We're close to each other," adds Malou. "Although I give Luica certain rules, which are for her own good, I allow her to make her own decisions, especially when I can't join her on her trips."

Mother serves as a model of hard work and independence for Luica. "She reminds me and my brother Malco to be smart always." Malco is also a multi-awarded swimmer.

Accomplished kids

In sports and life there are things that you do not want to do, or that you do not have time to do, but with discipline and time management, you'll surprise yourself at the things you can accomplish.

So even if Malou has been wishing "a normal life" for her 18-year-old daughter and 15-year-old son, she says she is most proud that her children "have a strong determination to fulfill their dreams and great discipline to do their obligations."

Luica and Malco don't indulge in junk foods and soft drinks. They sleep early, especially if they have training the following day.

Malou is indeed happy for her children's accomplishments. What she despises though is Luica's fierce training regimen. "*Hindi na* normal *ang buhay n'ya*. At times, I want to discourage her from pursuing her dream. But since she's enjoying what she's doing and does not have complaints, I'll support her," Malou says.

Since she was 9 years old, Luica's daily grind starts at 4 a.m. She goes to Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) in Paco, Manila, for her training at 5-6 a.m. Then she attends classes at St. Scholastica's College. After school, she goes to PCA again and trains for three more hours. She then darts home to cram dinner and homework.

But her ferocious competitiveness has kept her going for nine years now. "I love the challenges swimming offers," says Luica, who plans to take up psychology or advertising at the University of the Philippines.

It's only on Sundays that Luica and Malco live a normal teen life. They visit their grandma or go to a resort and enjoy the company of family and relatives.

Supportive parents

Love, support and encouragement are the greatest gifts any family can give to a child. But Malou believes her biggest influence on her children have been stability, faith and discipline.

"I always remind them to pray to the Holy Spirit and offer everything they do to the Lord," says Malou, who never fails to watch every game of Luica and Malco on television and records them.

"While watching them, I wish I can share their difficulties during competitions. Of course, I always pray for them to win."

And when Luica and Malco complain about minor ailments or experience injuries, Malou lavishes them with tender loving care. "I give them massage whenever they have muscle aches," Malou says.

Luica, on the other hand, says that discipline from her mother is in the form of strong love, a love that made her and her brother strive to do the right things. "Mom and Dad have always been supportive of any endeavor that my brother and I have attempted," she says.

But what mother and daughter treasure the most is the quality time they spend together. Like when they furnished their newly rented home in Makati and arranged Luica's medals in three huge frames, which are now displayed in the driveway.

"I also love playing puzzles with Luica and Malco before we go to sleep. That's our bonding time," Malou says.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

FOR LUICA, mom Malou is not only a friend but a key pillar in her life as well.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Go-kart's go-go mom

Glenna Fernan Guidicelli is on the right track raising champion child racer Matteo

By Constantino C. Tejero,
son of Tessie Comorro Tejero

"YOU'RE still my baby," Glenna Fernan Guidicelli is bantering with her son Matteo during breakfast in Island Café at the Makati Shangri-La. "Aren't you still my baby?"

The boy recoils in mock dismay from his plate of egg and bacon. Yes, he may still be a child, but he can do what only a few men would dare or could perform.

Born to an Italian father and a Cebuana mother, Gianmatteo Guidicelli was the 2002 national go-kart champion of Cadet 85 (8-12 years old). Last year, at only 13, he placed third in the Southeast Asian Open Class (16 years old and above), which is the highest karting category in the country.

"I was against it in the beginning," says Glenna. "But since he really likes the sport, we might as well teach him the proper skills. I've realized that this sport gives him confidence and focus, and keeps him away from vices. Anything that makes him happy I will support."

Glenna, almond-eyed and slender, is in her 30s but looks younger than her age. She is into business with husband Gianluca in Cebu City, where they're raising their two teenage children.

She sees to it that when her son practices with either of two mentors, his father is always with him. "If I'm not around, I'm not so worried because I know my husband is 100-percent supportive of him."

She supports him indirectly. "I would text him whether he's in practice or in competition, even if it's only 'Good morning,' 'Good luck,' or 'Don't forget to pray.' I only support him as a mother."

Exhilaration

The boy discovered the sport when he was 11, during a vacation in Italy. After experiencing the exhilaration of the track on a rented go-kart, he would go on and on talking about karting. Two months later, he joined his first race, Cadet 60.

The kart turned turtle in his first week of practice. Not having worn the proper gear, he got bruises—minimal injuries but rather traumatic for the mother.

"I really don't like it," rues Glenna, "but what can I do? He really likes the sport. We need lots of prayers."

Less than a year after joining his first race, the boy was into the complete series of nine races. He went through 41 races in his first year, 27 last year, and may complete 30 this year.

Top speed of these races is 120-130 km/hr. Last month, in Malaysia, the boy won the first leg of the five-leg Intercontinental Junior.

His family goes with him wherever he has a competition. But his mother often refuses to watch the race. Instead, she would be out somewhere talking to someone to pass the time.

"I'm afraid to watch—afraid for his safety," she says. "To me, win or lose, it's the same. If he wins, I'm proud of it. But if he loses, it's okay, because then he'll learn from his mistakes."

Matteo just turned 14 in March. In August, he might be transferring for ninth grade from International School in Cebu to Brent School in Pasig City.

This is in preparation for the next step—the Formula race, which his coach says he's now ready to join. If ever, he'd be the youngest Filipino to join Formula Toyota. His aim really is Formula BMW (250 km/hr).

Says the mother: "He has been courting me about it, 'Mom, please, let me join!' But he has yet to convince me. We still have to talk about it."

Guidance

When he relocates to Manila, the whole family goes with him: his father, mother and sister.

"He's at that age when he really needs guidance," says Glenna. "My priority is always the family. We hang out together. He's close to his sister. They have the same set of friends.

"One thing with him, he really knows how to caress. He'd go, 'Mom, don't get mad at me. You don't pity your one and only son?' He parties but he has to be home by 9 p.m. I prefer that he and his friends stay in the house, and they can sleep over."

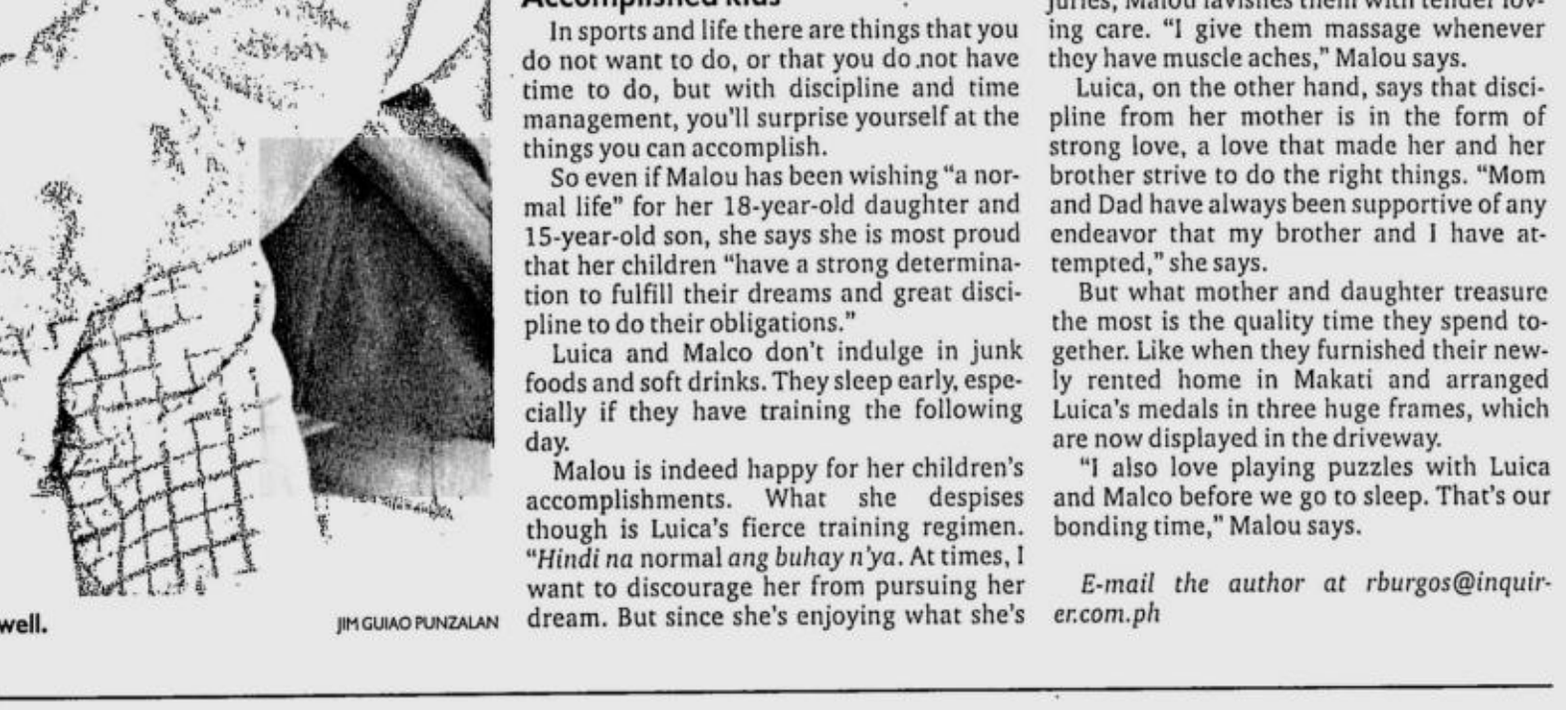
What about girls? "Well, they're starting to notice him. I just give him advice. And I'm a jealous mother..."

Does that mean she checks on his inbox or e-mail? She turns to Matteo, who's fidgeting in his seat, and says, "Remember, you're still my baby..."

After pressing a few keys, the boy pushes his cell phone across the breakfast table to his mother. "Okay, you can look at it," he says. "See if there's anything there."

His mother searches his face smilingly, saying, "Who's your crush?"

"You!" he blurts out, and both laugh.



MOM Glenna with Matteo: "I only support him as a mother."

ROGER MARGALLO

2004 Ulirang Ina awardees named

TWENTY-SEVEN women, distinguished for their love and total commitment to God and family, have been named Ulirang Ina Awardees for 2004.

Winners were divided into two categories. Getting special awards were Mons Romulo-Tantoco, Tanyag na Ulirang Ina; Felipa Adajar-Macalintal and Feliza Gonzaga-Perdiguerra, Ulirang Ina ng Angkan; and Bienvenida Bautista-Macalintal, Ulirang Ina ng Tahanan.

Recipients of the sectoral awards were: Business and Industry—Milagros Gokim-Tagle, Margarita Santos-Vit ug, Amelia Reyes-Cacnio, Teresita Visarra-Lapez and Linda Marcelo-Tiangco; Education—Dr. Herminia Estoesta-Rivera, Gloria Manalo Dogelio and Josephine Uy-So; Socio-civic/Religious—Norma Junio-Lozano, Rosario Panganiban-Melchor, Asuncion Lopez-Flores, Lydia Tan-Abuan, Luz Banzon- Magsaysay and Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman; Law and Judiciary—Judge Esperanza Fabon-Victorino;

FELIPA Adajar-Macalintal, Ulirang Ina ng Angkan

BIENVENIDA Bautista-Macalintal, Ulirang Ina ng Tahanan

GLORIA Manalo Dogelio, Education

MILAGROS Gokim-Tagle, Business and Industry

Media and Journalism—Juanita Rivas-Trofeo; Government Services--Susana Panlasigui-Abaya, Daisy Alfonso-Navarro and Annabella Visenio-Isidro; Arts and Culture—Josefina Camposagrado vda. de Gomez and Andrea Morales-Edang; and Agriculture—Corazon Cruz-Purificacion and Dulce Ilagan-Gozon.

The awarding ceremony will begin with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Luis Antonio G. Tagle, DD, STD, bishop of the Diocese of Imus, Cavite. Soprano Joscephine Gomez will sing the "Our Father" during the Mass and "Aking Ina" (Ernani Cuenca/Levi Celerio, composer/lyricist) and "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" (Lucio San Pedro/Levi Celerio, composer/lyricist). She will be accompanied by Carl Perion on the piano.

Speakers include Ulirang Ina Foundation president Wilfredo M. Talag, awards chair Leticia M. Talag and honorary chair Supreme Court Justice Consuelo Y. Santiago. Keynote speaker is Secretary Soliman.

During the past year, the foundation, which aims to promote Filipino family values and traditions, undertook a medical and dental mission in Poblacion, Makati, attending to more than 700 families. The foundation received support from The Children's Hour, Pag-Ibig Fund, Aventis Pasteur, Hormel Purefoods, Columbia Candies and Unilab, among others.

The foundation accepts nominations throughout the year, especially from past awardees. Entries may be sent to Suite 123, CK Business Center, 3/F, Mile Long Bldg., Amorsolo St., Legazpi Village, Makati.

The greatest bout of her life

From page D1

Good role model

Despite the odds, the Pacquiao siblings have remained close to one another. Dionisia says she brought them up that way.

"I tried hard to be a good role model for my children. I worked hard and took care of them to show that I do love them very much," she says.

Prayers were what sustained and strengthened their relationship, she says. She used to wake up her children at dawn so they could pray together.

Her prayers were answered when Manny became successful in his boxing career, and life immeasurably changed for the better.

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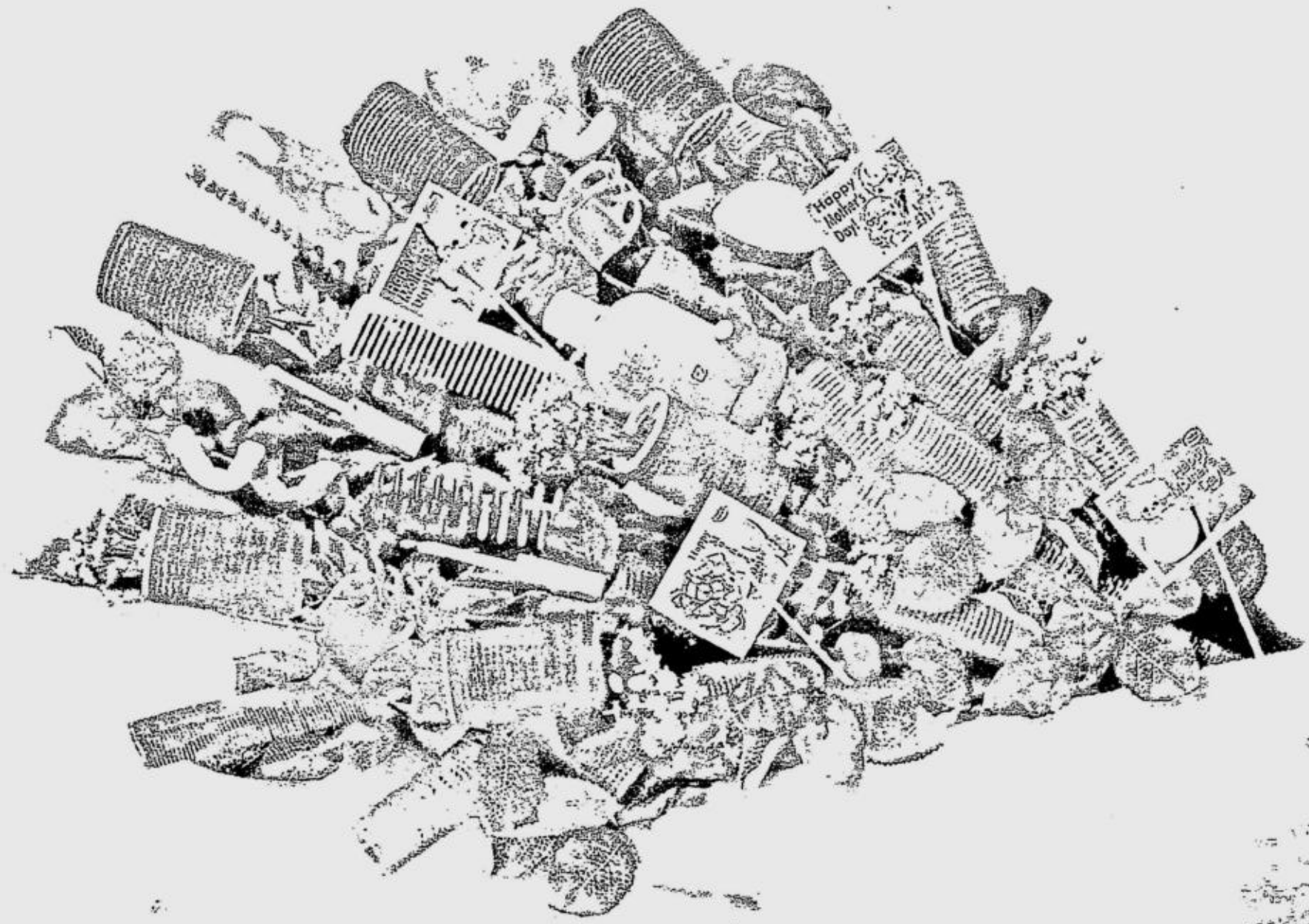

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BADMINTON and motocross whiz kids, and the moms who love them /E2

Mom's gentle putting raises a champ

No stage mother, Lorna Lopez Tabuena dotes on junior golf wonder Miguel without spoiling him

By Cheche V. Moral,
***daughter of* Teresita Vialu Moral**

WINNING MOM. "She doesn't teach me; I teach her," says Miguel. "But she doesn't listen." His mom laughingly adds, "I'm hard-headed *daw*."

MOM'S CUB. "When I [grow up and] become a champion, my mom says to buy her a house," says "Little Tiger" Miguel Tabuena, seen here with mom Lorna. The young champ is again scheduled to leave in June to do the tournament rounds in the United States, including the 2004 Junior World Championship in San Diego, CA.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

HOW does she feel about being mom to a champion golfer?

"Oh, I'm so happy!" Lorna Lopez Tabuena giggles.

"*Yabang*!" her young son grimaces in mock embarrassment.

"But I'm so proud to be Miguel's mom!" she winks at us as she continues to taunt him gently. He playfully ducks as she pulls to hug him.

The boy tagged as the country's little Tiger Woods may have earned fans among golf aficionados, but clearly in this home in an exclusive village south of Manila, Miguel Tabuena, the 9-year-old junior golf champion, is still happy playing Mom's baby.

"I have many kids!" the 48-year-old mother says as we inspect the framed family photos in their living room. "But this one," she looks lovingly at the grinning boy perched on a chair at the corner, "this one's my *bunso*."

The svelte and youthful-looking Lorna is spouse to Luigi Tabuena and mom to three children aged 20, 17 and 9. She has two married stepdaughters. "I now have a grandson so I always say I have six kids [all in all]," she says.

An avid golfer like her husband, it was Lorna who discovered Miguel's talent by accident when he was still in his nappies ("I got him this plastic club and ball. He took a swing... I was shocked! But I thought maybe it was *tsamba*. I placed another ball..."). Soon after she brought the toddler to the driving range, "which was *bawal*," and gave him her own old club that she had had cut in half. "Before I knew it he had hit seven buckets [of balls]!" she laughingly recalls. "He'd take breaks, grab his feeding bottle, like it was nothing!"

Today, with over a dozen jungolf championship titles to her son's name, Lorna is content watching him from the sidelines, leaving the coaching and "stage-parenting" to her husband. It is Luigi, half-brother and former manager of balladeer Martin Nievera, who manages Miguel's athletic career.

Strong force

But Lorna remains a strong, if quiet, driving force behind the boy's triumphs. She makes sure he gets the specified athlete's diet, and personally drives him to school and to his thrice-a-week practice. The Tabuenas decide together which tournaments their son would play.

Lorna, a MassCom graduate who owns a company that produces TV commercials, is making sure Miguel is reared and disciplined in the same way as her two older children. The only difference is "I have more time now to be [physically] with him," she says. "With the first two, I was busy because I was starting up a business. I had to do everything in the office."

A proud mom, she says her children are all talented, and her role is to spot what they're good at and guide them to pursue it. At his age, Miguel may still get distracted with other things, she says, "which is okay, you just have to guide him back. I always tell him, 'This is the talent that God has given you; you have to do something with it.'"

However, unlike some parents who pressure their children and give them unrealistic goals, this mom says the pressure is on herself as parent. "I have to make sure he enjoys what he's doing, that he doesn't get bored and burnt out," she says. "If he says he doesn't want to practice, we don't push him."

Miguel, she says, is very competitive, and gets very upset when he loses. "I explain to him that he can't always win, that even Tiger Woods loses. He just has to do his best."

Keeping a balance in her son's activities is also important to Lorna. "So what if he's good in golf but can't catch up *naman* in school?" A third grader at International School Manila, the young champ doesn't get concessions with house rules; he gets grounded, too.

Strict but funny

"Mom's strict," the boy rolls his eyes. "But she's funny. She tells jokes. And she walks like this," he says, mimicking his mom, to her amusement.

Her kids are close to her, Lorna says. "I feel it's also important that I spend quality time alone with each of them, to find that magic moment... Miguel and I, we're always together!"

"I can't go out [alone] *pa, eh*!" he sulks.

They watch movies together, but no, he doesn't like to go shopping with her. "[She takes] too long!" he complains. "When we go to a Lego store, she'll say, 'Let's stop by here first...'"

Lorna admits her youngest is more like her husband, who's a homebody. Miguel prefers to stay in his room, even when they travel. "I think that's why golf suits him. The game requires you to be focused and quiet... But you should see how [rowdy] he gets with the other jungolfers after a game!"

Lorna says she has improved her own game just watching her son and other jungolfers play. "When we play, we think of so many things, our swing... For them, it's just to put the ball in the hole, it's so natural."

But does the champ think she's good at the game? "Hmmm, medium," Miguel frowns, making rocking motions with his right hand. He bursts into giggles, to his mom's protests. "Dad coaches me and I coach Mom."

If Lorna looks younger than her 48 years, this Manileña says it's maybe because she's happy. She goes to Bible studies and joins prayer groups. "My older son says Miguel maybe God's retirement package for me and my husband. I think it's true."

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The mother of all cheering squads

Rita Asuncion does not play badminton, but she's a real winner with her champion kids Kennie and Kennevic

By Anne A. Jambora,
daughter of Marietta Alfon Jambora

MOM Rita Asuncion, with daughter Kennie and son Kennevic, says sports has shaped her children into better persons.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

WHAT'S a non-athletic mother to do when everyone in the family is fiercely passionate about a sport it is exceptionally good at? Stay on the side court, wave a banner, bang on the drums and scream: "Fight! Fight! Fight!"

"*Mas* intense *pa 'yan sa amin*, even more intense than my dad," says Kennie Asuncion, badminton champ, of her mother, Rita, who says the only exercises she ever does are walking, shopping and eating. This mother of champions (one child retired during his junior competition years) says she's content to stay in the background.

When it comes to moral support, however, nothing compares to Rita's infectious enthusiasm: she frantically shouts and jumps and wigwags. She was, after all, a member of a cheering squad, and by God, she is going to cheer on her two reigning champs like there's no tomorrow.

Fate would not have it otherwise perhaps. Long before her children were born, Rita cheered for her husband, Nelson, a former champion and now coach. While her children find her boisterous public display of support very touching, Rita admits they get embarrassed at times.

Born on Sept. 8 in Manila, Rita Chua met her husband when she was 12 through friends. Both lived in the same neighborhood in Binondo, and went to the same school. In college, she proceeded to finish her banking and finance degree from the University of Sto. Tomas, and tied the knot with Nelson at 22.

Now retired, Rita travels with her children and husband whenever they have a tournament. She makes sure everything is packed, food is ready, water supply is plenty—the only thing they have to worry about, really, is the game.

"She's very supportive and always ready for anything," says son Kennevic, Rita's other champ. "Even the clothes that I have to wear, socks and shoes included, would be by the bed when I get up."

Mom even packs a rice cooker along with other cookery thingamajig every time they travel abroad, especially in Europe, to make sure her children still eat a meal that is at least familiar to their palate. This way, she reasons, they need not adjust to so many things, such as climate and environment, and can better concentrate on their game.

"*Bawal sa ibang* hotels to cook so what I usually do is stick a towel into the gap between the door and the floor to keep the food aroma inside the room," Rita says. Not that she cooks at all. "'*Yung* food preparation *sinasabi niya binibili niya 'yun*," Kennie says. Rita prepares reheatable, precooked meals.

Rita, however, is happiest when watching her children play. She even sits through their long hours of daily training. As her husband rigorously trains the children, she brings them food and water and even picks up shuttle cocks. She also makes sure the kids get a break: She once took them to Disneyland and Ocean Park to enjoy their childhood.

Proud achievements

All these she has patiently done through the years, even during the days when badminton's future appeared bleak. No complaints, though, as Rita is obviously proud of her children's achievements.

The two siblings represented the country last year in the world championship in London, England, the first time for Filipinos to qualify there. "I never thought they could reach this high, that they would turn badminton pro, because I never imagined badminton would become this big," she says.

When eldest son Kenneth got into badminton, Rita tried to discourage him. But when the other siblings followed, she thought, what the heck. Although her husband influenced her children to get into the sports, tagging them along during games since Day One, badminton was never imposed on them. It simply was a natural course, like fish taking to water.

But life has never been conventional for the Asuncions. Rita says she and her husband used to wait for their children to finish their classes in the car, oftentimes bringing with them pillows so they could take a nap before driving them to the gym for training. Kennie remembers training after school before going home to eat dinner at around 10 p.m., then studying before calling it a day.

"We were rarely in the house, so we would spend most of the time talking as a family inside the car—either on the way to school, to the gym for training or on our way home," Rita says. In the car she would keep reminding the kids of their homework.

"There was a time when we wanted to quit school for a year so we could train better. But my mom insisted we finish our studies first no matter what. I'm glad we listened to her," Kennie says. "She is very firm with her decisions. She's strong and she's a fighter. Studies *muna*, after graduation we could do our thing." (All three are degree-holders.)

That the Asuncions live and breathe badminton is not surprising. It is badminton, in fact, that has kept the family doing practically almost everything together. When not busy coaching for the Ateneo grade school, high school and college badminton teams, Kennie spends her time teaching students at the family-owned Asuncion Badminton Court in Greenhills, where Kennevic trains and teaches full-time along with dad.

Rita, of course, is there every day, helping the family in any way she can. "If we want to pursue this career, win or lose, we stick by it and try to better our game. *Parang* Mom *ko, hindi alanganin ang kanyang mga* decisions," Kennie says.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Light of a young biker

Though she worries about her son's safety, Beng San Andres knows Kenneth was born to race

By Vangie Baga-Reyes,
daughter of Evanzuela Sy Baga

KENNETH San Andres, the "Wonder Boy" of local motocross, is "Wonder Son" to Mama Beng.

ROGER CARPI

FEAR engulfs her whenever her son goes out on the racetracks. Beng San Andres gasps each time her 15-year-old son, Kenneth, tackles those treacherous turns, sudden dips and low and high mounds that send him flying all over the racetrack. She only sighs with relief at his smooth, graceful landing.

"Watching Kenneth zoom across the racetrack at top speed makes me cringe," admits the 37-year-old mom. "But, at the back of my head, I know he could make it every time he does those crucial jumps and turns. God is with him."

Kenneth is undoubtedly the brightest and youngest motocross star in the country today. He keeps an astonishing collection of over 200 trophies amassed from local and international competitions. He's a constant awardee of the Philippine Sportswriters Association and now the Asia-Pacific FIM Supercross' best-placed Asian junior rider.

"When his dad gifted him his first motorbike when he was 3, I was a bit worried," recalls Beng, whose hubby Jun-Jun is also a motocross rider and now Kenneth's coach. "Of course, every mother would hate to see their kids get hurt or injured in the process. But, his dad saw his potential even at his young age so I had to contend with the fact that Kenneth was born to race."

The family still keeps the first kiddie motorbike in the garage.

Grueling and dangerous

Beng recalls that when she was in labor in the hospital in 1989, her husband was competing in motocross. "When he came back I already gave birth to Kenneth."

Motocross is probably one of the most grueling and dangerous motor sports ever conceived. So, before each race, Beng and the whole family say a little prayer before they leave the house. And before "Wonder Boy" Kenneth even pushes the throttle to announce his presence in the field, she and her husband would remind him to pray again.

When Kenneth gets home, win or lose, he gets a good rubdown from her mom or sister Krista, 17. "I also clean his helmet and other gears from dirt and dust," says Beng.

Beng raises her two kids without any househelp, so she does the cooking, laundry, ironing and gardening all by herself. She tends to their needs especially during school days.

"I wake up at 4 a.m. to prepare their warm bath, uniforms and shoes, and even their handkerchiefs, then I cook their breakfast. I also prepare Kenneth's *baon*. He likes *adobong matamis*," says Beng.

The petite mom claims there's no sibling rivalry between Kenneth and Krista. "Even if Kenneth gets all the attention from friends and is constantly in the limelight, I try my best to give equal attention and do everything for them. No special treatment," she says.

No sports, sorry!

Beng, who's been married for 18 years, is a homebody. She prefers to stay home than going to malls or talking about other people's lives with her *kumares*.

"I'm not an outgoing person and I have no sports to speak of. My only exercise is when I clean the house and the kids' rooms. My form of relaxation is watching all those telenovelas on TV," she says.

Beng hails from Meycauayan, Bulacan. She's an undergraduate of hotel and restaurant management at La Consolacion College. She honestly admits to everyone that she got married after celebrating her 18th birthday. She met Jun-Jun through her brother who was also a motocross rider.

Aside from *adobong matamis* that Kenneth loves most, she cooks a mean *kare-kare* and *afritada*.

If Kenneth has a competition abroad or out of town, Beng goes to school herself to get him excused from his classes. "I talk to the teachers and principal to give him special exams," she says. Kenneth is in fourth year high school at St. Louis College in Valenzuela City.

Kenneth may soar higher than his counterparts in the racetracks, but he has remained grounded at home. "He's an ordinary shy boy who loves playing with his Playstation. We don't spank our kids but we impose the rules at home. We only get mad at Kenneth when he plays computer games till 2-3 a.m."

During Mother's Day, Beng gets a personalized card from Kenneth and Krista. "I still have those cards with me and I treasure them a lot. I sometimes cry when I read them."

Kenneth's message to her mom: "*Sana hindi niya kami iiwan. Nandiyan lang siya lagi sa tabi namin*. Love *namin siya*."

Beng responds: "I'm glad my children appreciate all my efforts."

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

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PIC MOMCHILD

PIC MEMOM

PIC MOMSDAY

Mono Tones

Song title	Artist/Composer	Tone keywords
A Woman's Worth	*Alicia Keys*	**TONE WOMANS**
Where You Lead (Gilmore Girls Theme)	*Carole King*	**TONE WERULEAD**
More Than A Woman	*Aaliyah*	**TONE MORETHAN**
Every Little Thing She Does	*Sting*	**TONE LITLTHNG**
Stacey's Mom	*Fountains of Wayne*	**TONE STACYS**
Paano Kita Mapasasalamatan	*Kuh Ledesma*	**TONE PAANOKITA**
Natural Woman	*Kelly Clarkson*	**TONE NATURAL**
She Will Be Loved	*Maroon 5*	**TONE SHEWILL**
Miss Jackson	*Outkast*	**TONE MSJACKSON**
She Believes In Me	*Joe Cocker*	**TONE BELIEVES**
I'm Every Woman	*Ashford, Simpson*	**TONE EVERYWOMAN**
God Must Have Spent (A Little More Time On You)	*N'Sync*	**TONE GODSPENT**
Like A Rose	*A1*	**TONE LIKEAROSE**
Three Times A Lady	*Lionel Richie*	**TONE 3TIMES**
Bakit Ang Babae	*Apo Hiking Society*	**TONE BAKITANG**
You Make Me Feel Brand New	*Simply Red*	**TONE BRANDNEW2**
Girls Just Wanna Have Fun	*Cyndi Lauper*	**TONE GRLSJUST**
Be My Lady	*Martin Nievera*	**TONE BMYLADY**
Maria, Maria	*Santana*	**TONE MARIA**
Red-blooded Woman	*Kylie Minogue*	**TONE REDBLOODv**

Poly Tones

Song title	Artist/Composer	Poly keywords
A Woman's Worth	*Alicia Keys*	**POLY WOMANS**
More Than A Woman	*Aaliyah*	**POLY MORETHAN**
Every Little Thing She Does	*Sting*	**POLY LITLTHNG**
Natural Woman	*Kelly Clarkson*	**POLY NATURAL**
She Will Be Loved	*Maroon 5*	**POLY SHEWILL**
Girls Just Wanna Have Fun	*Cyndi Lauper*	**POLY GRLJST**
Be My Lady	*Martin Nievera*	**POLY BMYLADY**
Maria, Maria	*Santana*	**POLY MARIA**
Idependent Women	*Destiny's Child*	**POLY INDEPENDENT**
Senorita	*Justin Timberlake*	**POLY SENOR**
Love of My Life	*Brian McKnight*	**POLY LOVEOFMY**
Perfect	*True Faith*	**POLY PERFECT**
Buses and Trains	*Bachelor Girl*	**POLY BUSESAND**
All My Loving	*Beatles*	**POLY ALLMYLOVIN**
Michelle	*Beatles*	**POLY MICHELLE**
All the Things She Said	*Tatu*	**POLY SHESAID**
I'm Like a Bird	*Nelly Furtado*	**POLY IMLIKEA**
Iris	*Goo Goo Dolls*	**POLY IRIS**
I'll Be	*Edwin McCain*	**POLY IBE**
Something Beautiful	*Robbie Williams*	**POLY SOMETHINGB**

Logos

LOGO MOTHERD

LOGO MOTHERK

LOGO MOTHERI

LOGO MOTHERG

LOGO MOTHERH

LOGO SUPERMOM

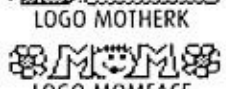
LOGO MOTHERJ

LOGO MOTHERL

LOGO MOTHERM

LOGO MOMRULZ

LOGO SFLOWERS



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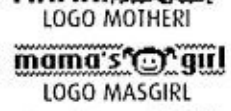

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LOGO MOTHERC

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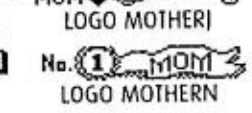
LOGO MOTHERE



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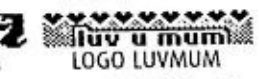

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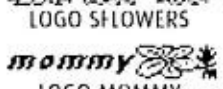

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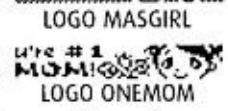

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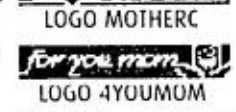

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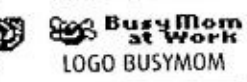

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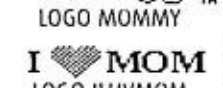

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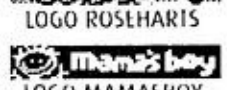

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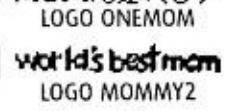

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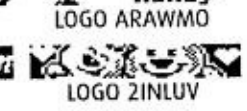
LOGO MOMMY3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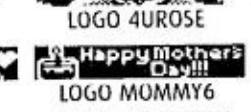

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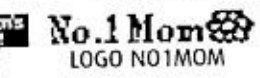

LOGO NO1MOM

LOGO WBMOM

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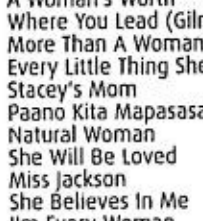
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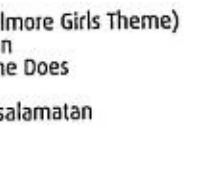
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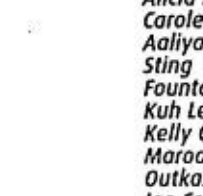
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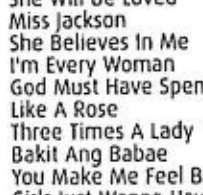
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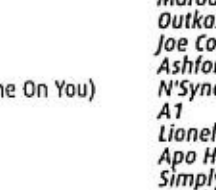

MMS MOM8

MMS MOM9

MMS MOM10

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MOM Maricel Malalad with Gretchen, who says her mom is different from other mothers. "She doesn't baby me," she explains.

ROGER CARPIO

Flying kisses instead of kicks

Maricel Malalad's spunky nurturing is exactly what champion karateka Gretchen needs to excel in the game

By Gibbs Cadiz,
son of Lina Haveria Cadiz

ONE look at tall, dusky Gretchen Malalad and you know you're in the presence of beauty queen material.

In fact, she's gone through the beauty pageant mill. Last year, she joined the Bb. Pilipinas tilt and, while failing to win any of the major titles, she romped off with the Miss Talent and Miss Red Bull awards.

Her talent was not singing, dancing, declamation, impromptu acting or any of the lame skills that pass for "talent" in these contests. What Malalad demonstrated was her prize-winning moves in karatedo. Now that was real talent, and the judges could only agree.

Malalad, 24, has been training in karate since she was 8 years old, and in their household of five—parents Pedro and Maricel and kids Tyrone, Gretchen and Jean-Marc—perhaps no one is more supportive of the unconventional athletic path she's taken than her mom.

"Mom is different from other mothers," says Malalad. "*Kahit nung bata pa ako, pag umuuwi ako* from training *na may putok sa labi, sasabihin niya sa akin, 'di ka kasi umilag, eh.' Hindi siya 'yung, 'uy, kawawa naman ang anak ko.'* She doesn't baby me."

Which is a surprise, since mom turns out to be a warm, earthy woman who just happens to love sports dearly and enjoys seeing her children preoccupied with worthwhile activities all the time.

"I just want my kids to be busy," she says. "*Nung maliliit pa sila, ako ang* manager *ng mga 'yan sa* basketball summer league *sa lugar namin. Ako ang gumagastos sa* uniform, *pagkain at* snacks, *para masaya lahat.*"

Maricel, 49, was born in Cagayan Valley and took up management in Jose Rizal College, Mandaluyong City. She spent 20 years at the Century Park Hotel doing front office and other functions before retiring to take care of the Malalad family business. Now, aside from being a full-time mom, she manages an auto calibration shop in Pasay. Husband Pedro, meanwhile, is a municipal councilor in Mulanay, Quezon.

Maricel's children all dabbled in basketball, volleyball, martial arts and other sports. Gretchen eventually chose karate because "I felt this was where I would excel. I flopped at basketball and volleyball," she says with a laugh.

"*Nung* brown belter *pa lang ako*, my dream was to be part of the Philippine team. Then when I made it, next goal *ko* was doing good in international competitions," she recalls.

That long hard climb meant endless hours of training, a non-existent social life—"she once asked me, 'Mommy, *maganda naman ako, ba't wala akong* boyfriend?' *Sabi kong pabiro, kasi natatakot sila sa'yo, nangangarate ka kasi*," says the mom—but a highly supportive environment at home, which Maricel was only too happy to provide.

"*Sinusuportahan ko siya* in whatever way I could," she says. "*Pag masakit ang katawan niya, minamasahe ko siya. 'Yung mga sugat niya*, no big deal *'yun, 'di ako nagpa*-panic. I just make sure she's all right and *masaya siya sa ginagawa niya.*"

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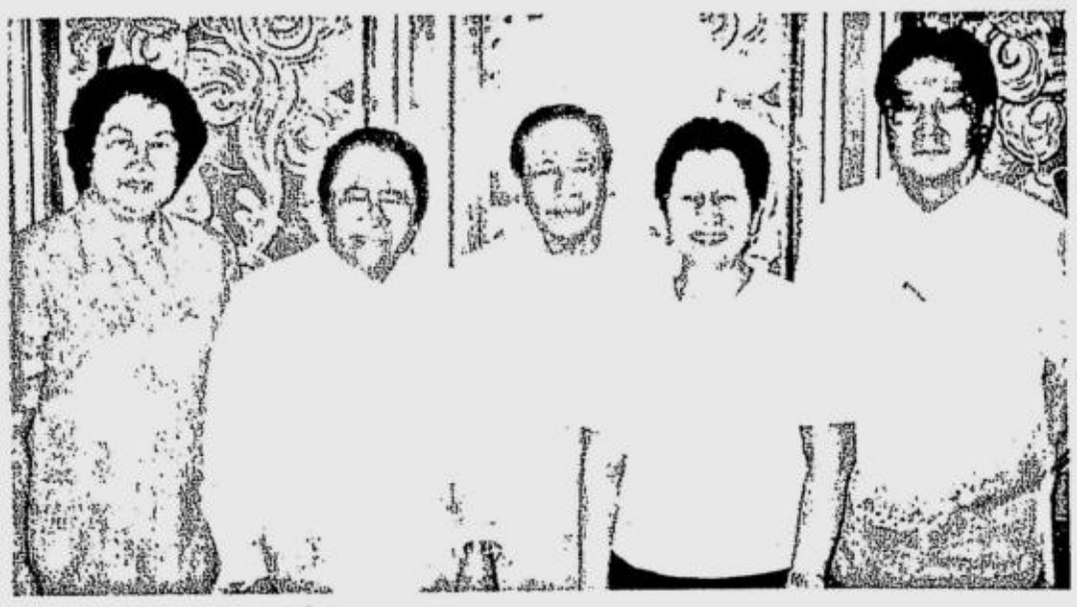


HELENA Benecito, Justice Pompio Abarintos, Justice and Ms Isaias Dicdican and Enrique Benedicto

RICHIE Go, Ricardo and Babie Go, Genevieve and Ryan Go

Visitor from the land of castles and the Danube

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

A RECENT visitor in Cebu was **Radu Homescu**, Romania's ambassador to the Philippines. He was accompanied by the personable **Doris Serban**, the embassy's third secretary (economic affairs) who, despite the name that reminds you of the American singer, is male.

Prominent businessman **Enrique Benedicto**, who is also the honorary consul of Belgium in Cebu, hosted a reception and dinner for the visiting diplomats at the Country Club. "You are a true friend of Romania," Ambassador Homescu complimented Enrique during his speech.

The ambassador is optimistic that trade relations between his country and the Philippines will prosper, and that there will also be cultural exchanges. He would like Cebu to be a sister city of his hometown, Daran. He spoke of Romania's history, the expansion of its industries and the buoyant economy, the fastest-growing in Eastern Europe.

Serban addressed businessmen gathered for the occasion, reminding them of the good diplomatic relations between Romania and the Philippines for 30 years now. He said, thanks to well-planned legislation, Romania was attracting a lot of foreign investment. The country's inflation rate had dropped and was expected to be lower in 2004.

Major money earner

Tourism plays an important role in Romania's prosperity. Ambassador Homescu mentioned the Gerovital Rich serum, reputed to fight off aging, that has drawn people for decades. He also mentioned cruises down the Danube River and the numerous castles all over the country.

One of the more distinctive is Castle Bran, associated with Dracula, who was not just a count but a prince, and was for real. **Bram Stoker**'s vampire is fictional, but people say they get goose pimples when they visit the castle.

The ambassador mentioned Castle Peles with a twinkle in his eye. He said if we visited Romania he'd love to show us the place personally. The castle is associated with Queen Marie, consort of Romania's second king, Ferdinand I.

Marie was a granddaughter of England's Queen Victoria. Her father, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, was called to rule the German duchy of Coburg. At 18, Marie left the duchy to become Crown Princess of Romania after it became independent from the Ottoman Empire.

Two justices feted

Enrique Benedicto and his lovely wife, **Helena**, also hosted an elegant Chinese luncheon at the Imperial Room of the White Gold House to honor two dear friends from way, way back. Both judges, the honorees were named recently justices of the Court of Appeals. They are Justices **Pompio Abarintos** and **Isaias Dicdican**.

As luck would have it, Enrique's elder brother, **Francisco**, Philippine ambassador to Canada, was in town. Frank joined the group, which also included **Judith Dicdican**, director **Merle Padilla Cunanan** of the Securities and Exchange Commission in Cebu, **Carlos Go**, University of Cebu president **Augusto Go** (honorary consul of Korea), **Ruben Almendras**, **Roger Lim** and **Danny Arcenas**.

Birthday asalto

The home of **Ricardo** and **Babie Go** was filled with friends and relations who gave her an impromptu birthday asalto. The caterers set up a magnificent buffet in the garden filled with favorite Chinese dishes.

Unexpected celebrations are the most fun, Babie said, adding that organizing a big party, given her extended family, would have required strategic planning. Well-wishers were led by the Go children—**Richie**, **Ryan** and **Genevieve** with their own children—**Bendrick**, **Bianca** and **Kayla**. Daughter **Chickie Go**, who lives in California, called several times, keeping track of the party's progress.

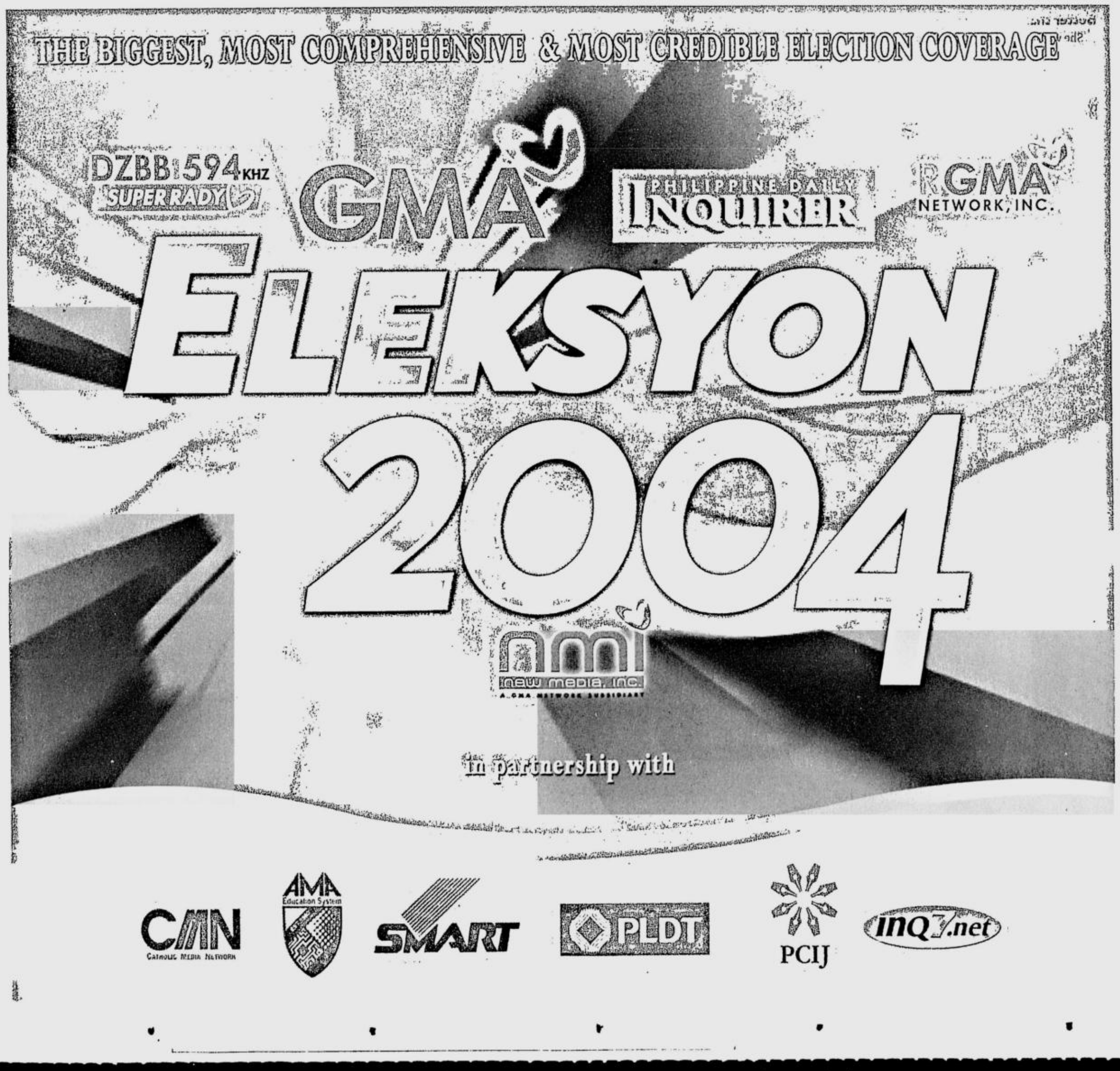
One special group sat at a round table inside reminiscing, taking Babie down memory lane to those happy high school days at the Colegio de la Immaculada Concepcion. The group included **Myra Gonzalez**, **Connie Revilles**, **Thelma Roa**, **Liz Cui Yu**, **Virgie Reyes** and **Inding Santos**, who is responsible for the art collection on the walls of the Go mansion.

"Remember Oche's debut?" They were referring to **Rafaelita Pelaez** (Mrs. **Jose Maria Golez** now and president of Liceo de Cagayan University).

How could anyone forget? That was 1966—lots of giggling at the mention of the year. It was at the Casino Español. The ballroom was transformed into a garden and we danced all night. The cotillion only took as long as a Strauss waltz.

Oche did appear at Babie's party, though a bit late, as she was entertaining relatives from the United States. She's as pretty as she was at her debut. Her duties as university president keep her extremely busy. Now that it's summer, she flew to Manila to enroll in two dancing classes—flamenco and belly dancing.

HONORARY Consul of Belgium Enrique Benedicto, Romanian Ambassador Radu Homescu, Austria's honorary consul general Arcadio Alegrado and Doris Serban, third secretary of the Romanian Embassy in Manila



Still searching for 'the' job

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 25 and working in a call center. I've been here for a year now, and I've moved to the next higher rank.

The pay is good, and I know this is a good job but for the past two months, I have not been happy here.

I think it's because I've always been on the night shift, and the schedule is affecting me. I'm thinking of looking for a day job, perhaps in the province where life would be much simpler.

If I quit though, I'd be reinforcing my self-image that I'm a "job-hopper." I've had several jobs and didn't stay long in any of them. It's not because I couldn't handle the work (I could) or I got fired (I didn't), but because I always ended up being unhappy, and so I'd quit.

The longest I stayed in a job was one year and three months. And now I feel like quitting again.

It's hard to explain, but I am depressed and worried about my career most of the time. Were it not for my family's support and prayers, I had probably long resigned from here. Would it help if I take some time off and think about what I would really like to do?

I feel there is something wrong with me emotionally, and I plan to read self-help and inspirational books to get over it.

CHARRIE

If ever you take time off, maybe the better question to ask is not "What job do I want?" but simply, "What do I want?"

A niece once said everyone wanted different things. I told her I always thought we all wanted the same thing: to be happy. A particular job or career, wealth, fame, peace of mind, youth (retained or regained), an honest and loving sweetheart, a wonderful spouse, beautiful children—all those things can bring happiness.

So, instead of "What do I want?" perhaps the more useful question is, "What will make me happy?"

But for now, you need a job if only to keep you occupied and productive while waiting for whatever it is you really want.

I think you could answer many big questions via personal counseling instead of by reading self-help books. For someone like you who is getting an employment history that would raise more doubts than optimism in the mind of a prospective employer, more immediate answers are needed.

So call Crisis Line at 8937603. They are open 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday to Friday.

But when you call them, please don't just ask for vocational counseling. Explore the possibility that you may be periodically suffering from clinical depression.

Loss of interest in a job, especially when it leads to frequent changes in employment, could be a sign of depression. You may be changing jobs not because of the nature of the work but because of some deep and unresolved issues. Those issues would not be resolved by changing jobs.

Flying kisses

From page F1

Better than a beauty title

She was just as enthusiastic when Gretchen decided to lay off karate for a while to rehabilitate a dislocated shoulder and, in the meantime, try her luck at the Bb. Pilipinas pageant.

"*Pangarap ko talaga sa kanya maging* beauty queen," she says cheerfully.

But as her daughter said only too well when she won her second Southeast Asian Games gold medal in December last year, busted lower lip and all, "This (gold medal) is better than a beauty title."

Who could argue with that? To date, Malalad has two back-to-back SEA Games gold medals, a bronze in the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, and is a pillar of the Philippine karatedo team that will gun for glory in the 2006 Asian Games.

And beyond 2006? "I plan to go into sports broadcasting after I retire from active competition," she says. "Or perhaps put up a gym and teach karate."

Like her brothers and a number of other top athletes, Malalad is also an enlisted personnel of the Philippine Air Force. She says she's ready to continue working for the PAF even after her retirement from competition.

With hands full like this, does she ever get to be a regular Jane?

"Oh yeah," she says. "*Sa bahay naman, pantay-pantay kami, so ako pa rin naglilinis ng kuwarto ko, ganun.* Mom just makes sure *na pagdating ko* from training, *andiyan na 'yung pagkain.*"

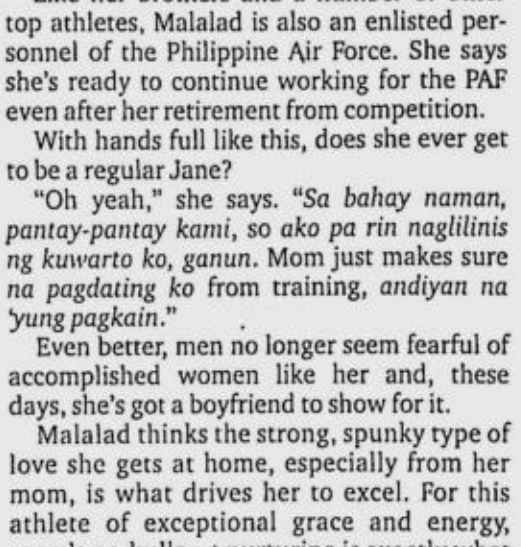
Even better, men no longer seem fearful of accomplished women like her and, these days, she's got a boyfriend to show for it.

Malalad thinks the strong, spunky type of love she gets at home, especially from her mom, is what drives her to excel. For this athlete of exceptional grace and energy, mom's no-bulls---t nurturing is exactly what she needs to stay focused in the game.

Her mother nods and says, "*Okay lang sa akin na ma*-experience *niya masaktan,* because that's how she learns. *Basta nandito lang kami.*"

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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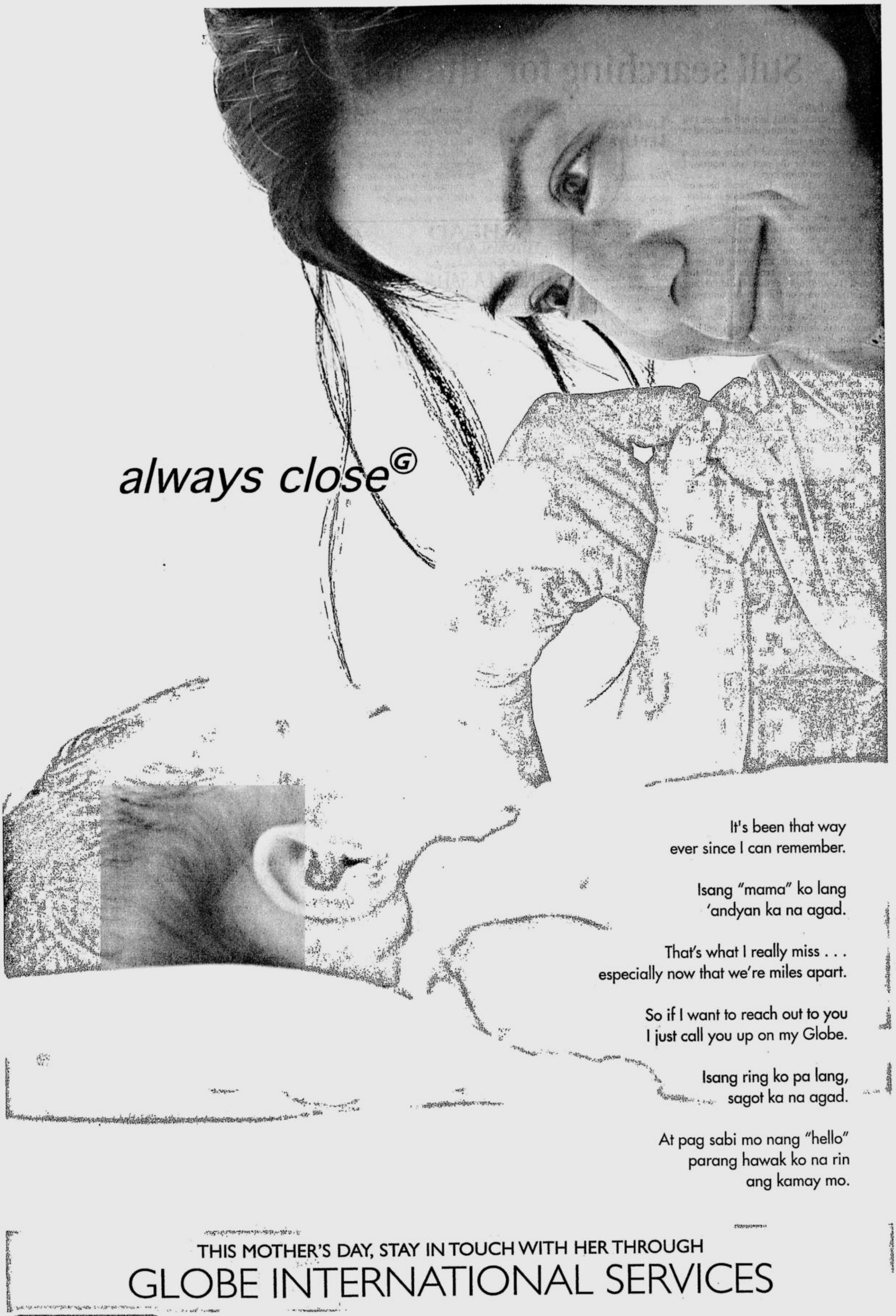

THIS MOTHER'S DAY, STAY IN TOUCH WITH HER THROUGH

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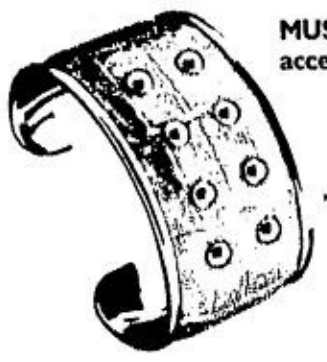


MUST-HAVE fashion accessory—J.P. Tod's Cuff

MUST-HAVE Watch—Cartier Santos 100

MUST-BUY CD— American Idol Soul Classics

Royal blood and prime beef in skimpy swimwear

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE Watch—Cartier Santos. This year, Cartier's Santos watch celebrates its centennial year. This fine timepiece was named after the Brazilian aviator and adventurer, **Alberto Santos-Dumont.** The collaboration between **Louis Cartier** and the Brazilian was an auspicious one as Santos-Dumont asked Cartier to design for him a watch that he could use while flying and the result became an icon in watchmaking.

To usher in the centenary of the watch, Cartier has updated and modernized the look. The watch is more massive, imposing and stylishly elegant.

The ladies have their own version in the Santos Demoiselle (named after Santos' airplane).

After a hundred years, the watch has more than kept up with the times. And the new look will surely solidify its status as one of the most recognized, important and worn watches in the world.

For the centenary, Cartier is having a huge "strictly invitational" bash on May 27 at the NBC Tent at The Fort. I was privy to the planning of what is touted "as one of the parties of the year" and it seems the party has the makings of a spectacle. So if you get an invite, go there! Cartier is unveiling the Santos watch at the event and it will be sold at its Rustan's boutique later.

Must-buy CD—"American Idol Soul Classics." I have been enjoying my Internet download of this album (not yet available in the Philippines) so much that I probably have scratched the hard drive. You can hear your favorites A.I. singers, from those booted out (**Matt Rogers, Camile Velasco, Amy Adams, Leah Labelle, John Peter Lewis, Jennifer Hudson** and **John Stevens**) to the surviving five contenders (as of this writing). The CD includes such songs as, "You Make Me Feel Brand New," "Me and Mrs. Jones," "Betcha by Golly Wow," "Neither One of Us (Wants to Be the First to Say Goodbye)."

A successful show like this of course cannot go unnoticed and uncopied in Manila so I caught one copycat episode on Channel 2. After I heard all the singers and the judges trying to do their "Randy," "Paula," "Simon" and even "Ryan" impersonations, you just have to cringe! I mean if you are going to copy a TV show to a T, you might as well do it well.

Going back to the CD: as much as I would like **Jasmine Trias** to win, I think it would be down to **Fantasia Barrino, George Huff** and **La Toya London** in the finals. My bet to take the top plum: La Toya London.

Royal hunk in Speedo

Flipping through People Magazine, I gasped when my eyes fell on this photo: all 6'3" of prime royal blood. In the photo, Prince **William** is seen playing water polo. The hot prince is a third-year Geography major at the University of St. Andrews and is in the water polo team of his school. Although he did not score a goal in the game when these photos were taken, I am sure he scored points for everyone who got a copy of the magazine. I think this photo would be appropriate, what with the election fever in full pitch; it's a good distraction. Enjoy it!

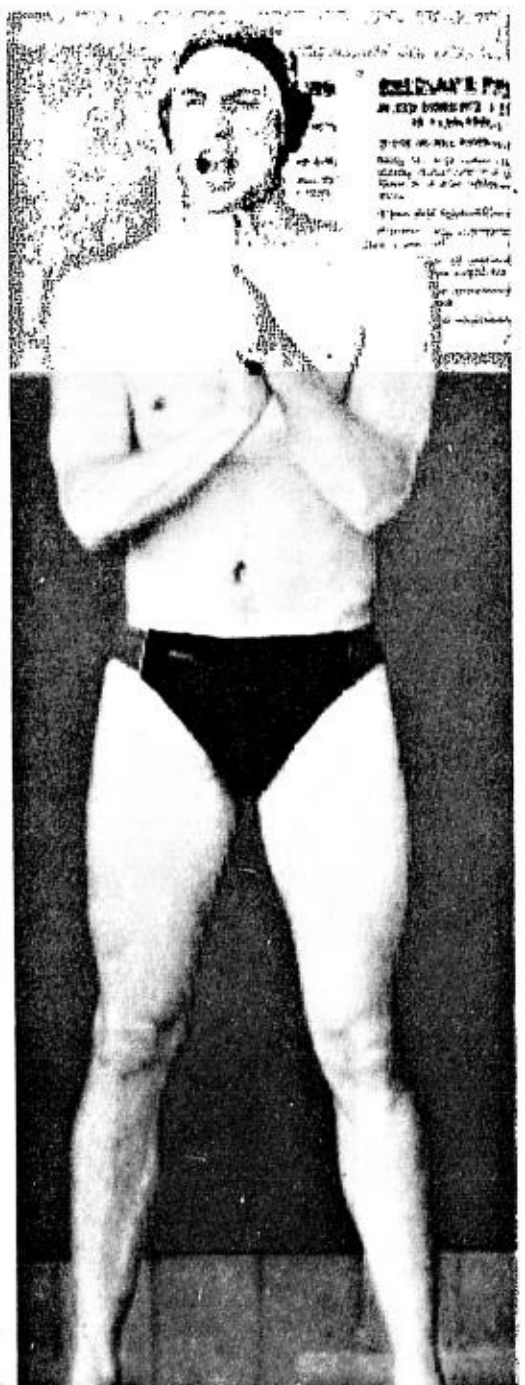
Must-Read Cookbook—"Art Culinaire." The book that all chefs, gastronomes, restaurant owners and homemakers copy—oops, I mean, get their inspiration from—is finally in the Philippines. The book is highly respected for its innovative recipes and comes out quarterly. So if you are in need of some inspiration in the cooking department, this is it! "Art Culinaire" is distributed by Domani International Inc. Call 8116702.

Must-have fashion accessory—J.P. Tod's Cuff. One of the hottest labels around, J.P. Tod's, known for its bags and shoes, is offering something exciting for fashionistas. It has ventured into jewelry design by introducing these bold and chic cuffs in crocodile, which come in light blue, tan, peach and orange colors. It has the distinct Tod touch of pebbles and hand-stitching. Tod's plans to have more lines in the coming months using different exotic skins. This look goes perfect with a tight tee and a tank top. J.P. Tod's is available at Greenbelt 4.

Things to do in May

Things may be in a standstill until after the elections, but this month does not have to be boring. Here are some suggestions to make May merry: Vote wisely!... Go to the **Anita Magsaysay Ho** exhibit at the Crucible... Watch "Van Helsing" which stars **Hugh Jackman**... Get a copy of the Vanity Fair May issue with **Jackie Kennedy** on the cover and **Plum Sykes'** "Bergdorf Blondes" being featured... Wear florals and prints, but stay away from the Hawaiian look (too tacky!)... Go easy on the fish intake: Studies show that large fish (think mackerel, swordfish, tuna, etc.) contain large amounts of mercury which can be toxic in large doses... Get a Von Dutch cap, hotter than hot street/athletic gear/accessory... Check out L'occitane's Amande beauty and bath products that are absolutely scrumptious (available at Rustan's Essenses) ... Eat at Red over at Makati Shang and order its gathered greens and prime roast beef (to die for). It gets full so reservations are needed. Call 8138888... Buy some Splenda, artificial sweetener that's better than the rest, at Rustan's supermarket... Wear white... Watch out for "Troy," the movie which stars **Brad Pitt** as Achilles. He shows not only his heel but his rear as well. "Apparently the Greeks were naked all the time," Brad tells Channel E! "Eat naked, play naked, they liked to be naked. I just didn't realize I was the only one doing it in the movie. I thought everyone else was too!" Worth the hundred bucks and popcorn! Brad is also posing nude in the June 2004 issue of Vanity Fair... Lastly, I will say it again, go out and vote! And vote wisely!

E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com



SPLISH-splash royal. Hunky Prince William in a tight-tight Speedo

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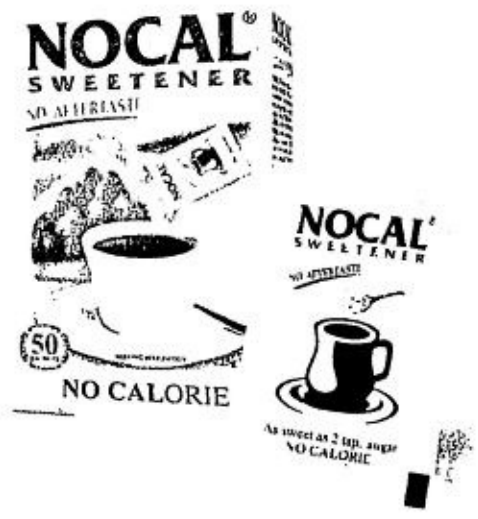

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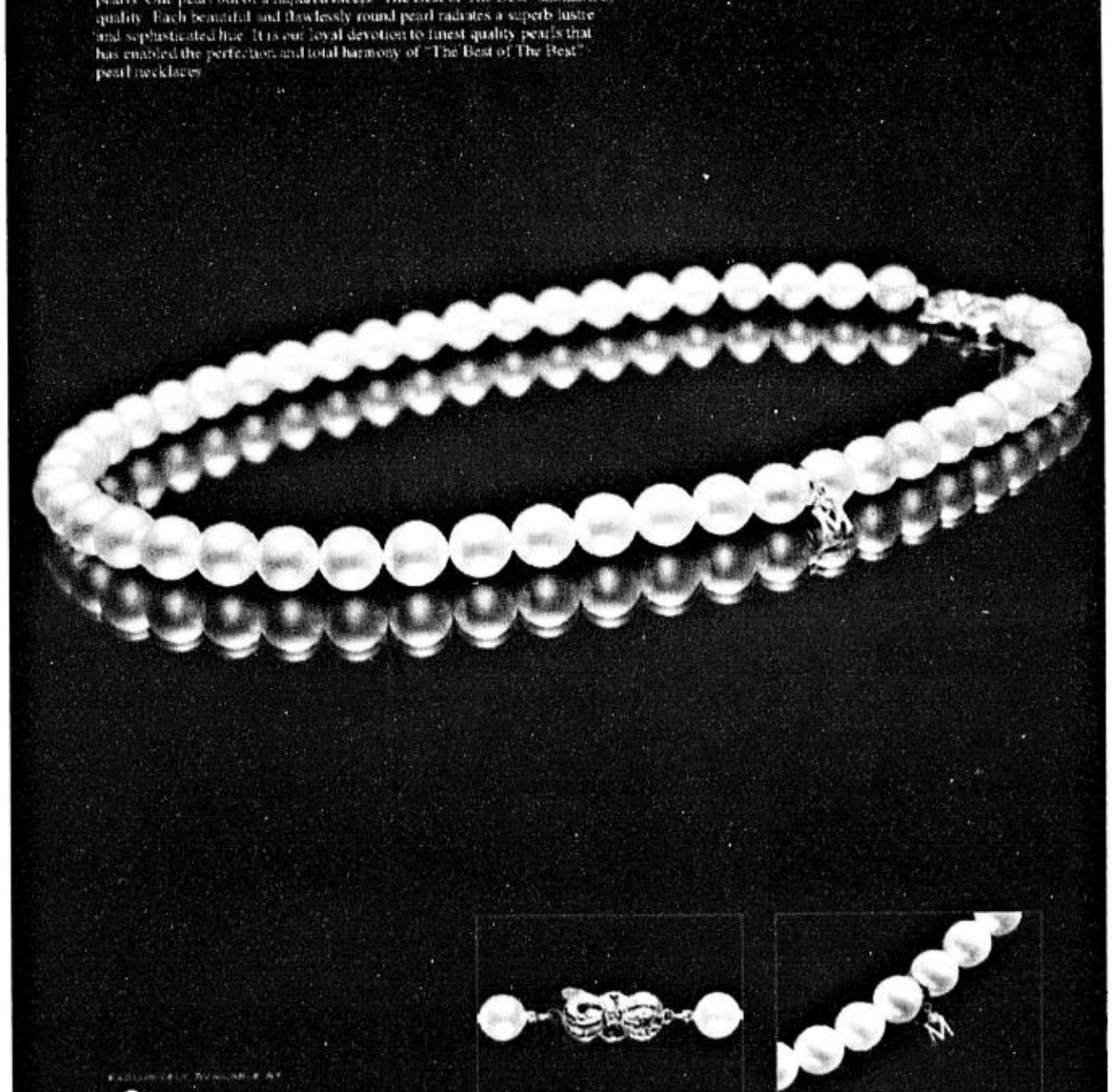

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WONDERFUL FRIENDS. Frances Lim, Miss Mouton winner Tina Pamintuan and Jessie Sincioco of Le Soufflé

SALA fun owner Colin Mackay with his contestant and creative designer Raoul Ramirez

STYLISH chicks Malu Gamboa, Jenni Epperson and Leica Carpo

MAKE-UP girl Lala Flores between lens couple Xander and Cheryll Angeles

TATLER lady Irene Francisco with Madame Imelda Marcos

MISS Mouton judge Edouard Miailhe with his pretty wife Sevrin

Beauty connoisseurship becomes me

NEWS couple Julius Babao and Tintin Bersola

CEBU royals Michel and Amparito Lhuillier of Chaines des Rotisseurs

FUN couple Francis Lumen and wife Maryanne, Miss Mouton judge

FRENCH judges at Miss Mouton, Philippe Gauthier and Ambassador Renée Veyret

EMPHASIS boss Teng Roma and talented designer Fanny Serrano

ELEGANT guests at the Tatler fashion show, Eva Abesamis and Franny Jacinto

RUNWAY productions big guy Joey Espino

GORGEOUS pair Kerry and Fred Uytengsu

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Judging beauty contests is a beautiful thing. With boa feathers, you get to upstage the contestants themselves

SWATCH grand dame and birthday girl Virgie Ramos

BEAUTIES all in a row. Sheila Alonso, Jasmin Chua, winner Tamera Marie Szijarto, first runner-up Nadia Camolli and Keithley Anne Campos

PHILIPPINE Tatler editor Anton San Diego with the Rustan's family

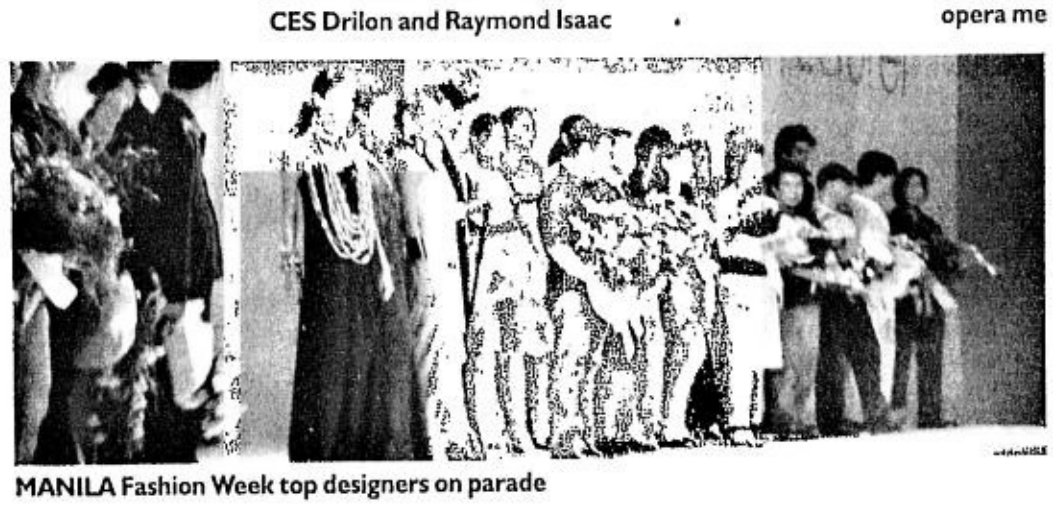
CELEBRITY TAPING. Sea Princess between Pops Fernandez and Michael V.

GENEROUS Petron president Khalid Al-Faddagh got first runner-up Mafae Yunon a ticket to Cannes, France together with winner Tina Pamintuan.

CES Drilon and Raymond Isaac

MISS Earth couple bosses, Lorraine Schuck and Ramon Monzon

CUTE Swatch boss Yannick Jenni with opera me


MANILA Fashion Week top designers on parade

Tree queen

My beauty pageant judging was more traditional—24 contestants competing for Miss Philippines Earth 2004. The event ran the gamut of the usual portions, from swimwear to long gown, so it was super long, especially with the dead time in between segments since it was being shown "delayed live" on ABS-CBN.

Miss Earth was actually conceptualized by a Pinoy, **Ramon Monzon**, as a contest with a slant on conservation. So instead of world peace, the all-around tagline is "plant trees."

One of the favorites of fellow judge **Julius Babao** was a look-alike of his wife, **Tintin Bersola**. He told me that she was also his wife's choice. One of my choices didn't make it to top five because she didn't do too well in the Q&A. She should have answered in Tagalog instead of "foorly fronouncing her F's and P's."

The final winners were an engineering student and an Assumption College graduate, so you can tell this was an intelligent batch. **Tamera Szijarto** won Miss Philippines because of her pretty face, her perfect figure (34-24-34—in my dreams, I have matching numismatic scores!) and her witty answer on how to save the earth from chemical waste.

To make sure I had enough impact when I was introduced as one of the judges, I got dramatic fantasy designer **Raoul Ramirez** to loan me one of his feathered headpieces and sheer lace gowns from his show during Fashion Week. In short, I wore my own crown but made of rhinestones and feathers. My entire plumage was over three feet high.

I loved that outfit so much I wore it again for a taping I did on the Celebrity Turns show on GMA. The character **Junie Lee** interviewed me and it was hilarious. I believe it airs next Saturday so do catch it.

Thanks to the Philippine Fashion Week, produced and directed by big-little fashion heavyweight **Joey Espino**, I was able to view wonderful creations of our talented designers. From the tropical tones of **Fanny Serrano** to the refreshing colors of **Katrina Goulbourn**, the avant-garde style of **Yvonne Quisumbing** and the fabulous drama of **Raoul Ramirez**, I realize there is a world out there outside of my mainstay favorite **Rajo Laurel**. I just can't help being biased for Rajo because he suits me like a glove.

Rajo brought his latest African-inspired collection to Kuala Lumpur to represent the Philippines in the Malaysian fashion week. His elegant beadwork on earth-tone fabrics was further accented by oversized **Arnel Papa** accessories that Rajo designed fresh from our African trip together.

To cap the numerous fashion exhibitions held in the NBC Tent and Glorietta, the INQUIRER sponsored a fun party at Red in the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Cal Carrie models, all in red creations by various top designers, paraded with a special RED cocktail drink while I roasted the designers. **Tim Yap** and **Sarah Meier** (who towers over me like the Eiffel) also hosted. It's so great to see that our country has a thriving fashion industry!

Speaking of beauty contests, tomorrow is the big one, and all of us get to be judges! All I can say is, it's a good thing the candidates didn't have to parade in their swimwear!

PS. to all Moms out there, especially **Mamarixi** and **Lola Cindy**—Happy Mother's Day!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

DRAMATIC lines in white by Raoul Ramirez at Fashion Week

ASIA'S top designers at KL Fashion Week. That's Rajo Laurel with Barnie Cheng of Hong Kong

AFRICAN tones by Rajo Laurel at KL Fashion Week

MAGNUM lady Tita Trillo standing behind judges Jeannie Goulbourn and Dennis Valdes

Mall's May entertainment lineup

MAY spells a whirlwind of activities at Shangri-La Plaza as the mall prepares the most fun and diverse lineup of entertainment and experiences in its effort to be the premier lifestyle mall in the country. From unique Mother's Day tributes to performing arts concerts to kids' activities, art and photo exhibits, and a succession of pop-music treats, Shangri-La Plaza's full May calendar is guaranteed to keep malling an exciting, everyday affair.

The Grand Atrium is the site of two special activities. Celebrity mall endorser Pops Fernandez pays tribute to all moms with a special Mother's Day concert today, 5-6 p.m. Meanwhile, Harry Potter fans will surely have fun with an ongoing magical event culminating on June 9.

At the basement Garden Court, kids and adults alike can display their skills with the yoyo at the Duncan Yoyo Clinics on May 15, 22 and 29.

At the Garden Court Activity Center, spend an informative afternoon at the People in Heritage Photo Exhibit in celebration of the National Heritage Month under the auspices of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts from May 9-14.

At Art Plaza, 4/L, indulge in all fields of the arts with the Future Arts Master from Color Me Mine Exhibit, Ceramic Painting Techniques, ongoing until May 15; and a musical extravaganza with the talented trio of Acoustic Perfection on May 16-23, and the jazz vocalist Anya Santos on May 29. Artist Janice Liuson-Young's second solo art exhibit, "Birthright," runs until May 21 at Gallery 828. This exhibition is for the benefit of the Philippine General Hospital's Pediatric Ward.

At level four, experience mom's loving ways with the Working Mom magazine's first Working Mom of the Year Award launch and digital photo exhibit on May 13-21.

At Streetscape al fresco dining row, experience the different sounds of Manila's top bands, with Passage on May 14, D Soul on May 15, Orange & Lemons on May 21, Mulatto on May 22, Pido With Take One on May 28 and Ad Lib St. on May 29. Streetscape also plays venue to Acoustic Wednesdays with performances by Dream Sequence on May 12, Vienna on May 19, Anya Santos on May 22 and Liquid Apples on May 26.

Life just got sweeter.

A can of ice-cold diet cola, a slice of guiltless chocolate cake, a piping-hot cup of sweetened italian espresso... Aahhh, life just got sweeter.Thanks to the new sweetener that has no aftertaste, no calories, no equal ... NOCAL.

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NOCAL's Ace-K is so good, it is the sweetener used by your favorite cola light and diet softdrinks. Check it out for yourself on the label!

Each sachet of NOCAL is equivalent to the taste of two teaspoons of refined sugar. It is ideal with coffee, tea, fruit juices, chocolate drinks or in any food you want sweetened. You can even cook and bake with it because NOCAL does not lose its sweetness with heat.

NOCAL has no calories, no preservatives, no added flavoring, no sugar --ideally suited for weight watchers and diabetics.

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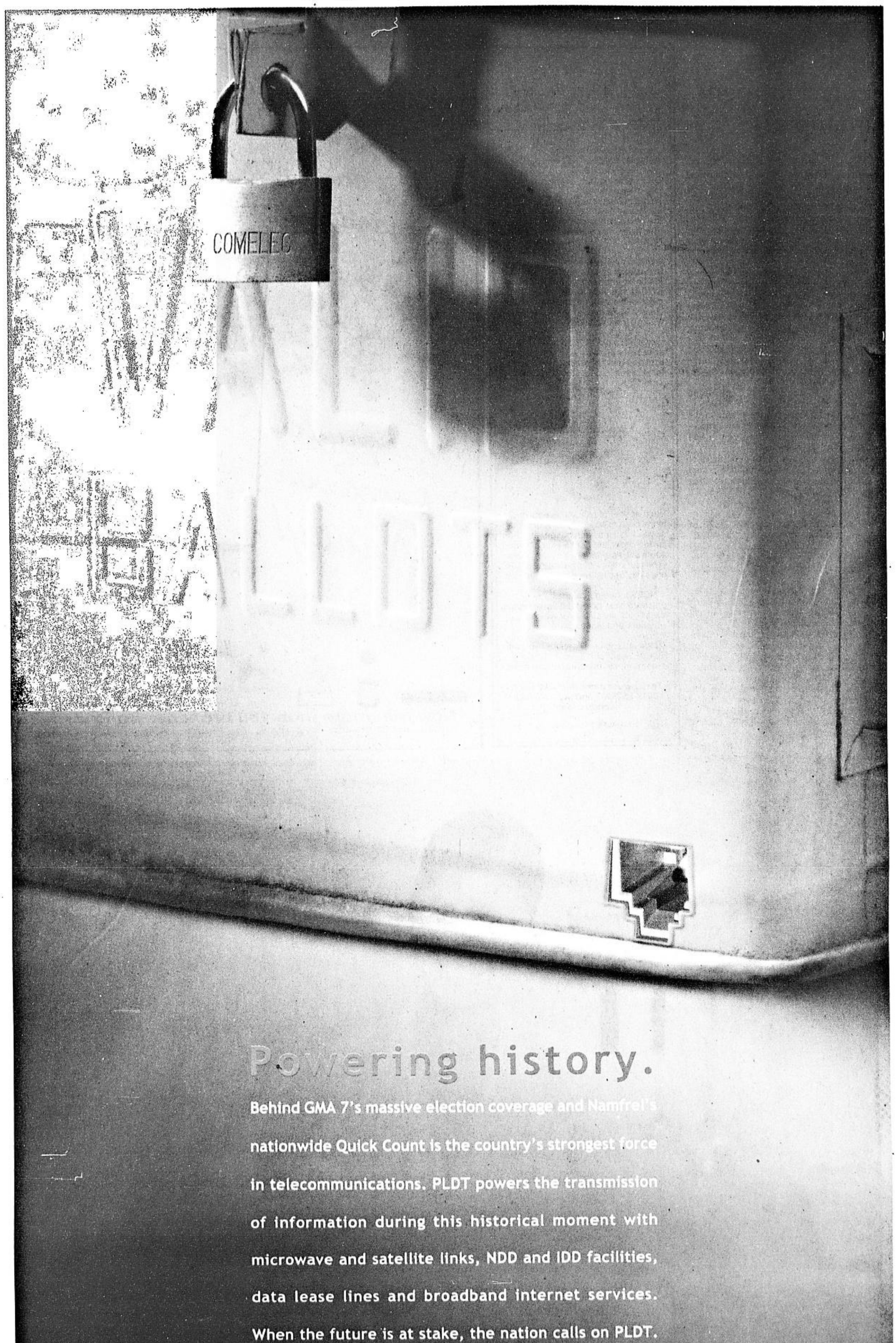

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Behind GMA 7's massive election coverage and Namfrel's nationwide Quick Count is the country's strongest force in telecommunications. PLDT powers the transmission of information during this historical moment with microwave and satellite links, NDD and IDD facilities, data lease lines and broadband internet services. When the future is at stake, the nation calls on PLDT.

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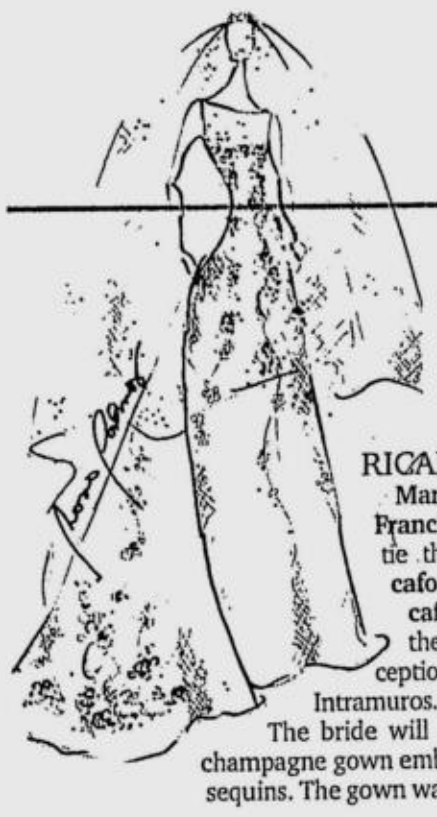

RICAFORTE-ARCILLA

Maria Lizza Arcilla, daughter of **Francisco** and **Libertad Arcilla**, will tie the knot with **Noriel Jose Ricaforte**, son of **Jesus** and **Sofia Ricaforte**, on May 15, 4:30 p.m. at the Basilica of San Sebastian. Reception will follow at Patio Victoria, Intramuros.

The bride will wear a princess-cut silhouette champagne gown embellished with crystal beads and sequins. The gown was created by **Nono Palmos**.

CANDELARIO-INGALLA

Neil I. Candelario, son of the late **Romeo** and Dr. **Bease Candelario**, tied the knot with **Michelle P. Ingalla**, daughter of Hon. **Agustin** and **Lorna Ingalla**, yesterday, at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Kalibo, Aklan. Reception followed at Sampaguita Garden's Restaurant.

Anna India de la Cruz-Legaspi of Heritage Arts and Crafts designed the bridal gown. **Rommel Constantino** of 5672 was the event coordinator.

ALCANTARA 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and **Mrs. Alcantara** celebrated their silver anniversary and renewal of vows yesterday, at Pope Pius, United Nation Ave., Manila. Reception followed at Makati Park and Garden Guadalupe, Makati City.

Mrs. **Lilia Alcantara** wore a serpentine gown in white duchess satin with beaded lace applique and silver flowers designed by Boutique Plantasy at Makati Cinema Square.

VILLANUEVA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Pedro and **Tomasa Villanueva** will renew their vows on June 16, 1 p.m., at the San Francisco de Asis Chapel Ruparan, Digos City, Davao del Sur. Fr. **Yoyong Albete** will officiate the Mass. Reception will follow at the Villanuevas' residence in Ruparan, Digos City. The bride will wear a gown designed by **Roland Rubago**.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

PAREDES-LEGASPI

Abraham C. Paredes tied the knot with **Jenny P. Legaspi** yesterday at Great Commission Church, Imus, Cavite. Reception followed at The Orchard Golf and Country Club, Community Clubhouse, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The bridal gown was designed and created by **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day.

SANTOS-MARTINEZ

Pierre Angelo C. Santos, son of **Alfredo** and **Henrietta Santos**, will tie the knot with **Irene B. Martinez**, daughter of **Patrocinio D. Martinez**, on May 26 at the Nestas Garden Hall. Reception will follow at the Nestas Hilltop Hotel, Roxas City.

PINGA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and **Mrs. Simeon Pinga** of Caloocan City celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on April 18. A renewal of their marriage vows and reception was held at Fernwoods Garden, QC. Their children, **Ma. Teresa**, with her husband **Romae Arana**, **Daniel** with son **Jeremy**, **Edgar**, **Dan** and **Ma. Victoria** celebrated this special occasion with them.

DE JESUS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Leonardo and **Evangeline de Jesus** will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary by renewing their vows 3 p.m., May 23, at the St. Joseph Parish, O'Donnell Capas, Tarlac.

Reception will follow at the Clarkdine Officers Club, Clarkfield, Pampanga.

Erratum

ROBERTO Carlos Barcelona Collantes and **Maria Rizza Estevez Duran**, both medical doctors and graduates of Physical Therapy, exchanged "I do's" last March 8. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Msgr. Honesto Moraleda and Fr. Ben Moraleda at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish.

Rizza, daughter of Dr. **Jose J. Duran** and **Evelyn E. Duran**, wore a *piña* gown embroidered with *calado* and embellished with beads, crystals, sequins and pearls.

Robert, son of **Modesto S. Collantes** and **Consuelo B. Collantes**, donned a black Donna Karan tuxedo.

"Ang Kasal, A Wedding Fair"

MAY 15 & 16, 2004
EXPO CENTRO
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EXHIBIT TIME
10:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

- Over 100 professional wedding suppliers. Service packages range from high end to individual budget design.
- Flores de Mayo, A Terno Display.
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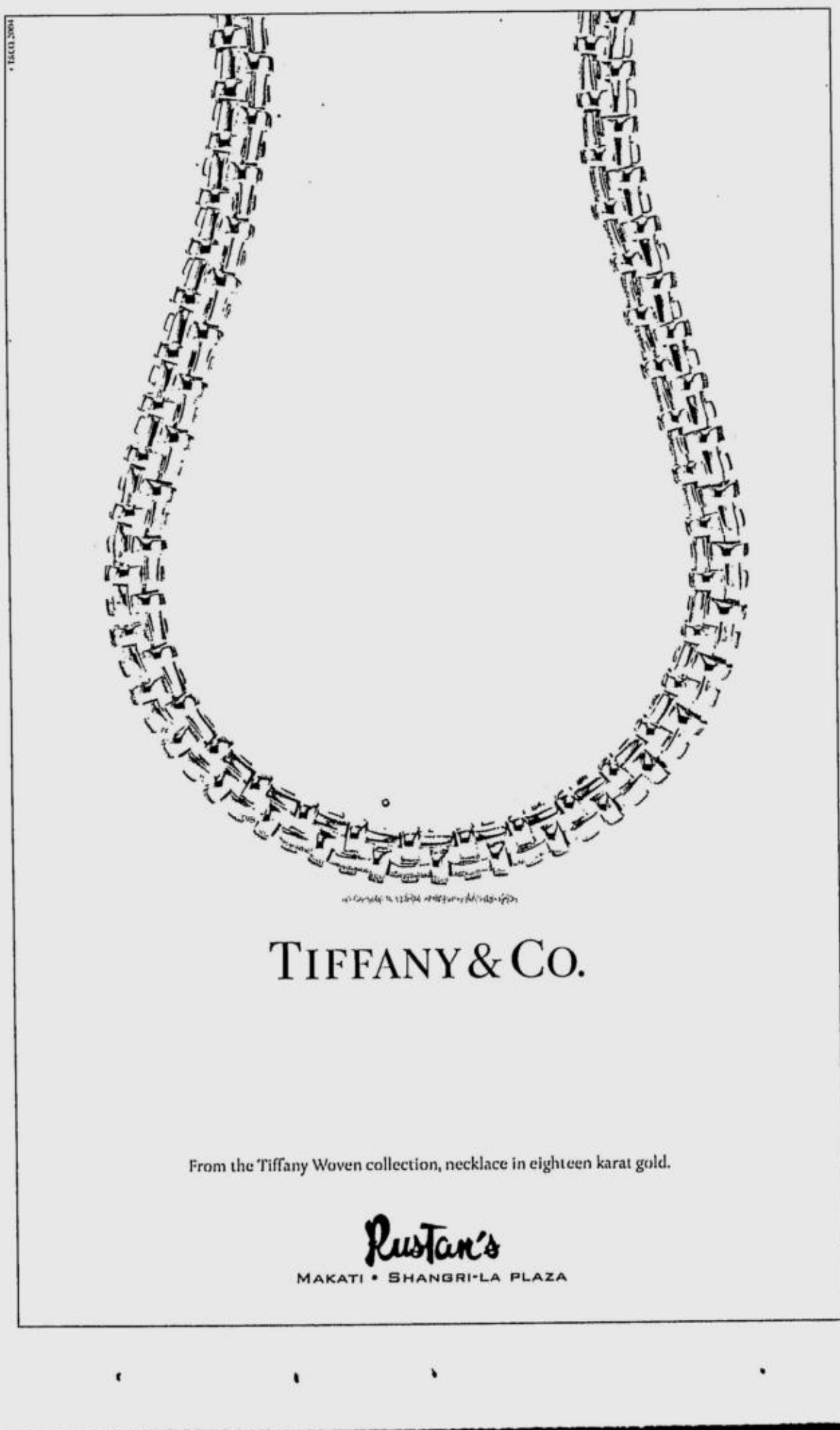

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From the Tiffany Woven collection, necklace in eighteen karat gold.

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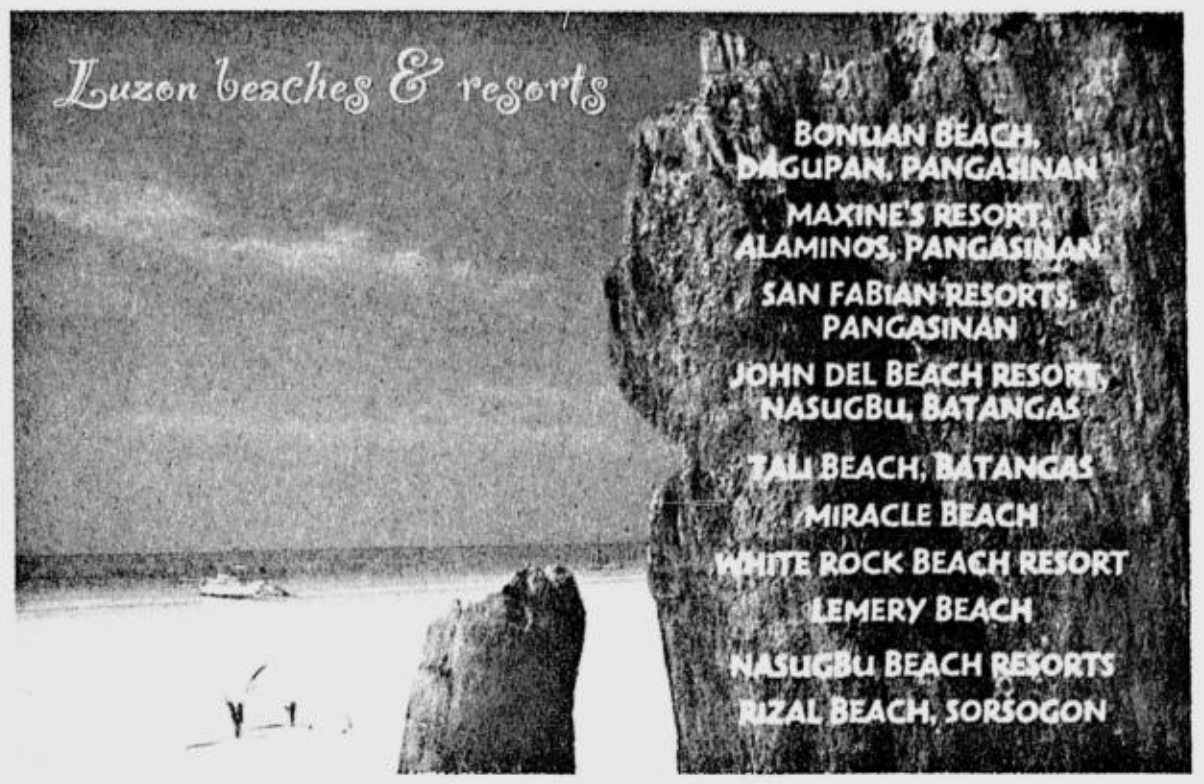

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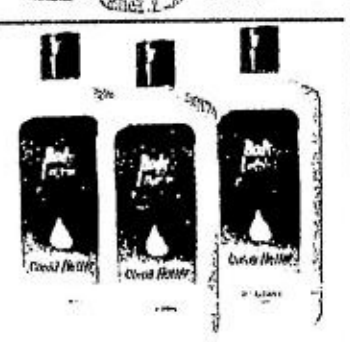


Watsons
Green Tea
Daily Shampoo
500 ml

299.50 for 3
@ P149.75 each

Funky Farm
Bath & Shower Gel

379.50 for 3
@ P189.75 each

3 for 2

buy 2 get the 3rd item FREE

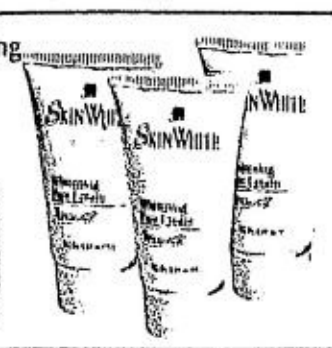
MAY 7 - JUNE 4

Vaseline Lotion
(old packaging)
(all sizes/
all variants)

100 ml
101.50 for 3
@ P50.75 each

Skin White Whitening
Face Cream
(all sizes)

258
99.50 for 3
@ P49.75 each

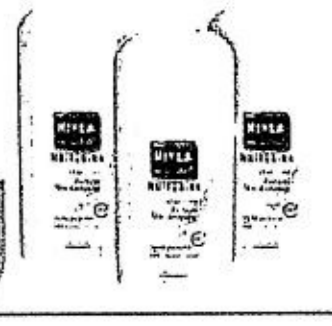


Johnson & Johnson
Baby Powder
Blossom 300 g

113.50 for 3
@ P56.75 each

Nivea
Whitening
Deo Stick
50ml

279.50 for 3
@ P139.75 each



Colgate
Toothbrush
(zigzag
prebundled)

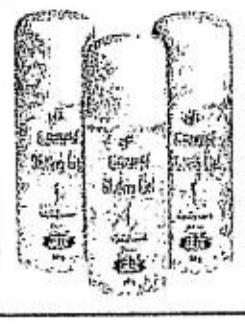
100.00 for 3

Clean & Clear
Foaming
Facial Wash
(all sizes)

100 ml
97.50 for 3
@ P32.75 each

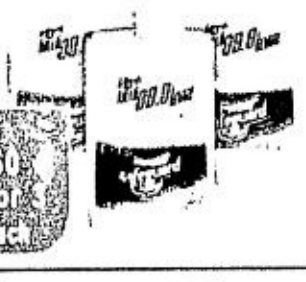
Splash
Styling Gel Control
(green / yellow)
50 g

25.50 for 3
@ P12.75 each



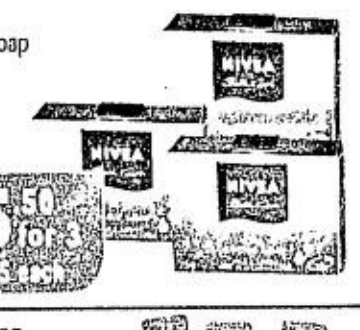
Safeguard
Deo stick
(all sizes/
all variants)

93.50 for 3
@ P43.75 each



Nivea
Creme Soap
75 g

65.50 for 3
@ P22.75 each

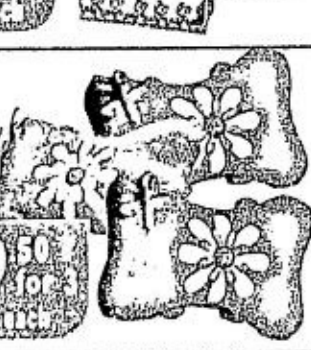


Secret
Deo stick
(all variants)

93.50 for 3
@ P46.75 each

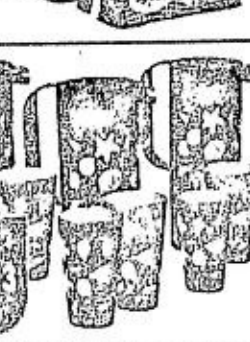
Metrosen
Dental Floss
Waxed Mint
50 m

89.50 for 3
@ P44.75 each



Herbana
Green Papaya
Soap 150 g
(all variants)

79.50 for 3
@ P39.75 each



CY Gabriel
Special /
Medicated/
Green Apple
135 g

65.50 for 3
@ P32.75 each

Metrosen
Children's
Toothbrush

25.50 for 3
@ P12.75 each

Extra Facial Puff
100's (3's pack)
prebundled)

89.75 for 3

Tender Care
Shampoo
(all sizes)

100 ml
77.50 for 3
@ P25.75 each

Tender Care
Soap
(all sizes/all

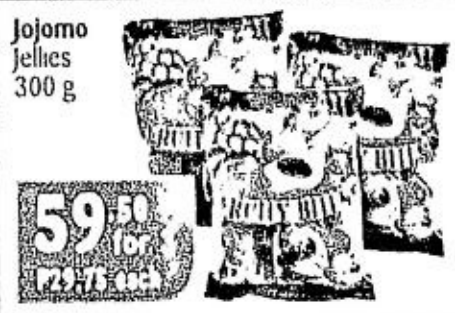
90 g
29.50 for 3
@ P9.75 each

Extra
Bathroom Tissue
1 roll / 1 ply

19.30 for 3
@ P6.50 each

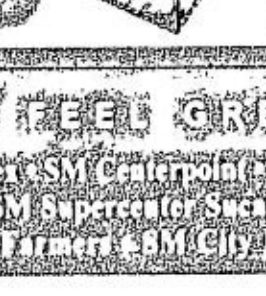
Sofeel
Travel Tissue
2-ply 100's

19.30 for 3
@ P6.50 each



Barney Diaper
(all Sizes)

Medium 20
339.50 for 3
@ P113.25 each

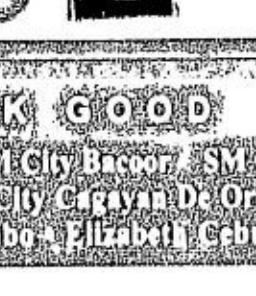


So Soft
Facial Tissue
Box 2-ply
140's

53.50 for 3
@ P24.75 each

Sofresh
Teen Wings
8's

49.50 for 3
@ P24.75 each

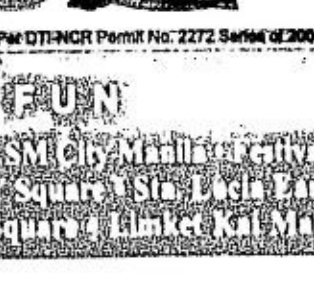


She Napkin
Cottony with
wings 8's

49.50 for 3
@ P24.75 each

Giggles
Baby Wipes
10's

41.50 for 3
@ P20.75 each



Orita Fabric
Softeners

299.50 for 3
@ P149.75 each

Car Pillow
(assorted
colors)

249.50 for 3
@ P124.75 each

Plastic
Pitcher
Set

198.00 for 3
@ P99.00 each

Dog
Stuffed Toy
7"

198.00 for 3
@ P99.00 each

Bath
Flower tube
4's

109.50 for 3
@ P54.75 each

Lotte
Waffles 90 g

139.50 for 3
@ P69.75 each

Gullon
Pick / Fish
Crackers
230 g

135.50 for 3
@ P77.75 each

Tootsie Roll
Chocolatey
Chews
70 g

115.50 for 3
@ P57.75 each

Gullon
Choco Chips
3's

94.75 for 3

Jojomo
Jellies
300 g

59.50 for 3
@ P29.75 each

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SUNDAY, MAY 9

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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ERIC delos Santos

Fashion's centrifugal forces

A number of designers from Cebu, Davao and Iloilo show they have what it takes to stand side by side with their Manila counterparts

By Alex Y. Vergara,
son of Gilda Yatco Vergara

SOME of the biggest names in fashion design in Cebu, Davao and Iloilo presented their collections at the recent Philippine Fashion Week at the Glorietta Activity Center.

By presenting wearable but striking pieces, Kate Torralba, OJ Hofer, Jun Escario, Eric delos Santos, Popoy Barba and, to a certain extent, Aldrich Aparicio, stood out against their colleagues, whose inspirations ranged from the outrageously offbeat to the downright, well, basic.

By drawing inspiration from such sources as the Baguio flower festival to writer Celine Lopez "on holiday," whatever that meant, Torralba came up with one of the evening's most cohesive and eye-catching collections: soft coats, long dresses and tops made of chiffon in such bright shades as aqua, yellow, fuchsia and red, which she paired with fitted flat-front pants and pencil skirts. Floral appliqué, strategically embellished on skirts, collars and bodices, were the unifying elements.

Escario combined soft and structured pieces for his collection consisting of draped and loose chiffon blouses worn over white tubes and shirred or pencil skirts. He used shiny brooches as accents to his soft and flowing tops in lime green, orange and hot pink.

Hofer went for a different and more subdued color palette for his A-

FASHION'S/ I2

KATE Torralba

POPOY Barba

ERIC delos Santos

Fashion's centrifugal forces

From page 11

line skirts, strapless bloomers and muumuus: chocolate brown jersey with baby pink accents. His silhouettes are mostly shirred and flowing.

Iloilo's Delos Santos came up with silhouettes that, he said, harked back to the 1920s and 1930s. In lieu of soft vintage fabrics, he combined soft and hard tulle that he cut and layered to achieve handkerchief skirts. He added a dash of color to an otherwise all-black collection by using floral-printed fabrics.

Aparicio, also from Iloilo, paid tribute to the 1970s fixture in classy hotels and coffee shops: women who lunch. To achieve the look, he came up with dark blazers and structured little black dresses with soft and contrasting accents in ivory. As a tribute to summer, he also did a series of sleeveless long dresses with huge floral prints.

Barba went for structure and color as he accented his satin jackets and sleeveless blouses with bright circular appliqués. It was difficult for him to hide flaws using shiny fabrics. That's why we wish he had paid more attention to the construction. As an ideal foil to all that sheen and color, he made his models wear straight and matte black pants.

Whether one is based in Manila or in Cebu, Davao and Iloilo, it pays to know when to go the extra mile and when to step on the brakes.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

EDGAR Buyan

KATE Torralba

OJ Hofer

ALDRICH Aparicio

EMY Alexander Englis

JUN Escario

JUN Escario

Rosary center opens in Manaoag Shrine

EDNA Ouano Toral, who built (with the help of many people) the Rosary center of the Our Lady of Manaoag in Barrio Corte, Carmen, Cebu, also arranged for the construction of the Rosary Center in Manaoag in Pangasinan. The center was blessed by Lingayen Archbishop Oscar Cruz on April 28, feast of the Virgin of Manaoag.

Located on the second floor of the Pastoral Center, the place features oil paintings by Cebuano Gary Carabio of the 20 Mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

Manila Art Frame owner Araceli Valero sent the paintings by ship from Cebu to Pangasinan. Interior space specialist Gerald Monreal, also of Cebu, arranged the paintings in a fully air-conditioned room that is constantly filled with the version of the song "Ave Maria" of Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli.

The Rosary Center came about when Fr. Patricio Apa, parish priest of Manaoag, saw the paintings of the Holy Rosary at the then newly opened Rosary Center in Barrio Corte on Sept. 8, 2003. The paintings measured 4 by 6 ft. Those Fr. Apa ordered for the center in Manaoag measure 3 by 4 ft.

Tourists and pilgrims gather in Barrio Corte not only to look at the paintings but to also pray and meditate there.

So successful and inspiring was the initial venture that Edna, Araceli and Gerald formed the "Veneration and Centers for Prayers Consultancy," which would help parishes put up their own Rosary centers. Consultation is free.

Text Edna at cellular phone (0917) 9593483 or call (032) 2310808.

Lady of the Abandoned

Sta. Ana Church is holding a novena in honor of the Our Lady of the Abandoned at 6:30 p.m. until May 11. On May 12, feast day, Fr. Eliakim Suela, OFM, will celebrate the 9:30 a.m. Mass. After the Mass, devotees will go up to the back of the altar and venerate the Virgin.

The most treasured section of the parish of the Our Lady of the Abandoned is the *Camarin de la Virgen* (The Virgin's Little Room) at the second floor of the church behind the *retablo* (altar). It is a beautiful chamber where one can meditate and pray the Rosary. Devotees would go up to the *camarin* and kiss or touch the long veil of the *Virgen* that hangs from the head down the back of the statue.

Encouraged by the deep devotion to our Lady, Fr. Bernard Lanuza, OFM, then parish priest of Sta. Ana, organized the *Cofradia de Nuestra Señora delos Desamparados* in August 2003 starting with six core members. Today, there are 65 devotees in the organization.

The *cofradia* invites devotees of the Blessed Virgin Mary to visit her at the Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish, Pedro Gil and Panaderos Sts., Sta. Ana, Manila. The *camarin* is open 6-8 a.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m., Monday to Saturday. For group pilgrimage, you may get in touch with Philip Escudero, 5634207; or the parish office, 5644203.

Our Lady of Fatima

From Charito Melchor comes this announcement:

"On May 13, Thursday, Feast of the Our Lady of Fatima, a talk and video presentation on 'Devotion to Our Lady' will be presented at 11 a.m., followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary and the celebration... of the Mass at 12:15 p.m. by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco.

"The Mass will be sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima (The Blue Army of Our Lady) at the Holy Family Chapel in Eastwood City, Bagong Bayan, QC (off E. Rodriguez Avenue). The public is invited to come and honor Our Lady on her important feast day."

OUR Lady of the Abandoned, Patroness of Sta. Ana, Manila

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Ilocos pilgrimage

Gloria Gelva is organizing a pilgrimage to different churches in the Ilocos Region, May 21-23. Call San Felipe Neri Parish leaders Sr. Glo J. Gelua, 6311701/0919-6773544; or Sr. Teosing Cabahug, 6336903/0927-2203042. Arrangements are made by Mimi Dizon of Expo Tours Philippines.

Lady of Prompt Succor

Our Lady of Prompt Succor is enshrined in the church of Bais, Camarines Sur. But a devotee, Tita Concepcion, has a replica in her small chapel in Naga. Here Tita does her healing and she welcomes people who want to get well. If you wish to see her, text her for an appointment, 0918-9292109.

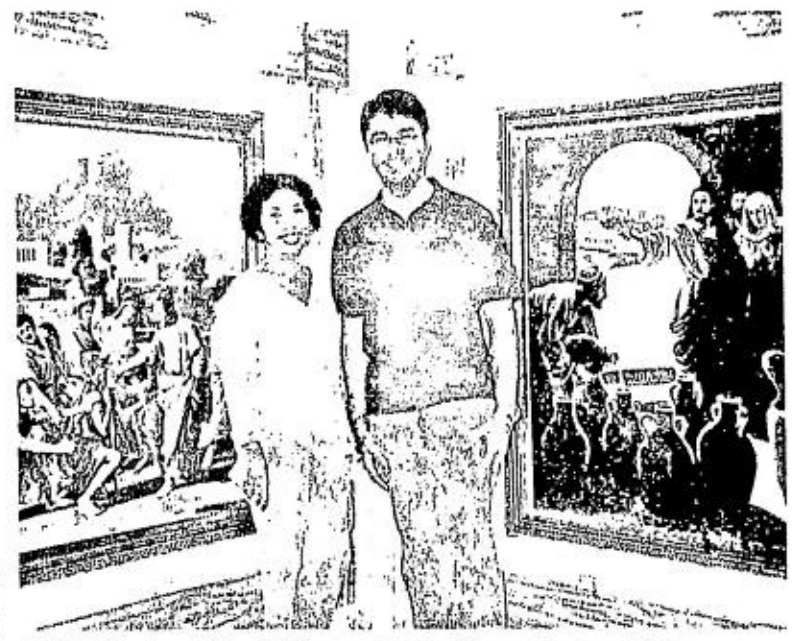
I had beautiful experiences with Our Lady. Whenever I have a problem, I always pray to her using her *estampita*. Those who wish to obtain a copy can write to me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

For peaceful elections

For nine days until today, the Confraternity of the Our Lady of All Nations has been holding a novena for peaceful national elections at the San Agustin Church. The novena at 11:30 a.m. is followed by a Mass.

Regular confession

Starting May 10, there will be regular confession at Ermita Church according to Fr. Sannie De Claro. The schedule runs from 7-7:30 a.m.; 11:30-12 noon; and 5-6 p.m.



EDNA Toral and Gerald Monreal at the Rosary Center in Manaoag, Pangasinan

Hulog ng Langit!

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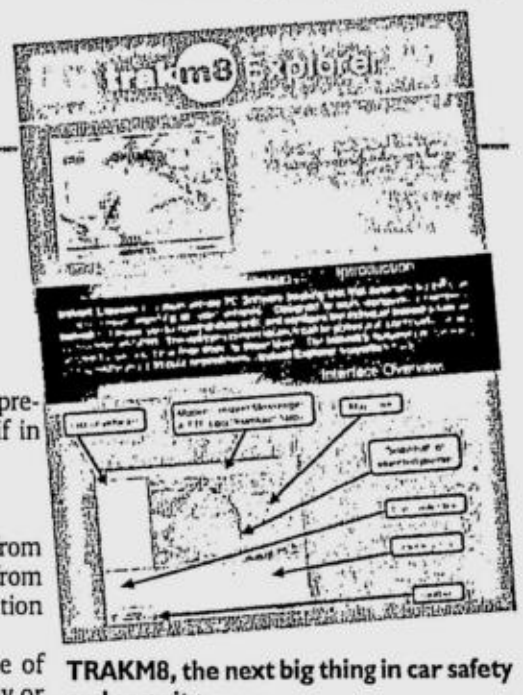
Because family matters most

SEA Princess upstages beauty queens /G2

Your car can be your txtm8



TRAKM8, the next big thing in car safety and security

By Pam Pastor,
daughter of Susan Salomon Pastor

THIRTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD PJ Gonzaga sits down, opens his laptop and taps away at his keyboard. A map with different-colored squiggles and lines appear on the screen.

"This," he says, pointing at a little blot on the screen, "is one of the vehicles. It is moving at 40 kilometers per hour."

He whips out his mobile phone, dials a number and just minutes later receives a text message about another vehicle. "Trooper is 5 km W of Ongpin traveling NW at 29 kmh."

No, this isn't a scene from a sci-fi film.

We are sitting outside Starbucks in Greenbelt and PJ is demonstrating the powers of Trakm8.

Trakm8 is a powerful black box that allows you to keep track of your car while providing valuable security and safety features. This is made possible with the use of GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) technology, which the United States provides at no cost.

And while the idea seems pretty daunting, its reality is simple.

Once you have Trakm8 hidden in your car, all you have to do is use your mobile phone to call the number of the SIM card that you installed in the unit and it automatically responds with a report, about where your vehicle is, which landmark it is closest to and how fast it is moving.

There are currently 2,000 landmarks all over the country. The unit also allows you to customize your own landmarks.

If you're concerned about the possibilities of other people keeping track of your car's whereabouts, there is no need to worry. Trakm8 will only send reports to a maximum of eight pre-programmed numbers.

Another way of keeping track of your car is by using the Trakm8 Explorer, a PC application which allows the user to communicate with Trakm8 using the Internet.

Companies with a fleet of vehicles can keep track of their movement with the use of MapM8, a computerized monitoring system. Again, the process is secure—there are no third party servers and no threat from hackers.

Increased security

Hosaku International is the local distributor of Trakm8. Six friends came together to bring the technology to the country after one of them had to go through the ordeal of losing a car. After over a year, more than 1,500 units have been sold. These users have been enjoying increased safety and security.

Trakm8 has a number of safety and security features that many people think exist only in dreams.

There's the Panic Alert Facility. When this panic button is pressed by the driver for two seconds or more, Trakm8 automatically sends an SOS text message to pre-programmed recipients. This message gives details of the status and the location of the vehicle, alerting them to move fast. It's a necessary tool in this age of rampant robbery, kidnapping and carnapping.

Over Speed Reporting and Excessive Acceleration Reporting will keep Schumacher wannabes in check. When this feature is enabled, Trakm8 will send a message every time your car exceeds the speed limit. The user can set the vehicle's speed limit. It's the perfect way to know if your son has been living life on the fast lane—literally.

The Invisible Security Shield is also a helpful feature. When the vehicle is parked, Trakm8 puts up an invisible 20-meter radius security shield around it. If the vehicle moves outside this area without an authorized driver being present, Trakm8 sends out an alarm via SMS to pre-programmed recipients. This allows quick action—you can stop your car from being stolen or towed.

Remote Vehicle Immobilization allows the Trakm8 user to remotely activate immobilization, whether a driver ID tag is present or not. This can be used to prevent people from using the vehicle if in case it is stolen.

Curfew monitor

If you want to stop your daughter from taking out the car when you're away from home, the Curfew Vehicle Immobilization feature will come in handy.

Trakm8 users may restrict the use of the vehicle to certain times of the day or the week. The vehicle starter circuit will be automatically immobilized during the curfew time. With the help of Curfew Breach Reporting, Trakm8 will send a message to pre-programmed recipients if the car is used outside those hours.

Trakm8 can automatically send a Journey Summary Report at the end of every trip to pre-programmed recipients. The message will include the start location, start time and date, end location, end time and date, duration of journey, distance covered, maximum speed attained and idle time—the perfect way to make sure your driver isn't abusing your car.

Other features include Round-trip Reporting, Time-based Reporting, Distance-based Reporting, Journey Recorder, Vehicle Tamper Reporting, Vehicle Battery Disconnect Reporting, Ignition Reporting, Zone In and Zone Out Reporting and Automatic Vehicle Immobilization.

As expected, Trakm8 doesn't go for peanuts. A unit costs P49,080. But the company promises no monthly fees. After shelling out the cash, the only bills you'd have to face are your mobile phone's.

While a lot of people will find Trakm8 useful, some certainly wouldn't appreciate being watched—young drivers with a thirst for speed, philandering husbands, sales agents with assigned routes and family or company drivers who abuse their vehicle access. Still, one can only hope that this device will change the way people drive for the better.

Now if there's only a way to put an end to drunk-driving.

Visit www.trackm8.com. Call 2456357 or 2456358.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Enlargement of the European Union Celebrated in Manila

The Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines is celebrating the enlargement of the European Union with a series of events starting with an information display exhibition dubbed "European Unity: Icons of Diversity" from 4 to 9 May 2004 at the Lounge, The Podium, Ortigas, Pasig City.

After successfully growing from six to 15 members, the EU has now embarked on its biggest enlargement ever in terms of scope and diversity. Thirteen countries have applied to become new members: 10 of these countries - Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia joined this 1st of May 2004. Bulgaria and Romania hope to do so by 2007, while Turkey is not currently negotiating its membership.

The "European Unity: Icons of Diversity" exhibition will feature icons from the 25 Member States and the European Commission and the public is invited to view the information display from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Podium until 9 May 2004.

The exhibition is being presented by the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines in partnership with the Member States of the EU in the Philippines, The Podium, Joey@92.3, Smart, and Philips. It is also supported by the leaders and members of the Euro-Filipino Understanding and Relations Organization, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City; Lingua Arts Cultura, Ateneo de Manila University; and the European Studies Association, De La Salle University, and the German, British and French Schools.

In addition to the exhibition, the Delegation of the European Commission is also holding an essay contest for college students with the theme "The Enlargement of Europe and Its Implications to the Philippines" and all entries, 1,000 to 1,500 words should be submitted to the Delegation by 6 August 2004. Another ongoing project with Joey@92.3 is the "IQ on EU" radio trivia and a series of information capsules dubbed "EU at a Glance".

Enlargement will extend the EU's trade policy regime to the acceding countries. The system, featuring a single trade regime for the EU and a different regime for each of the new Member States, disappears. A single set of trade rules, a single tariff, and a single set of administrative procedures applies right across the enlarged Union. This will greatly simplify the dealings of Philippine operators within the EU. Investors will receive enhanced levels of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection in the new Member States due to these countries' adoption of EU Directives in this field. No accession country was a member of the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement (GPA). Following accession, all new Member States are automatically subject to the GPA via membership of the European Community, and they will apply the EC legislation on public procurement

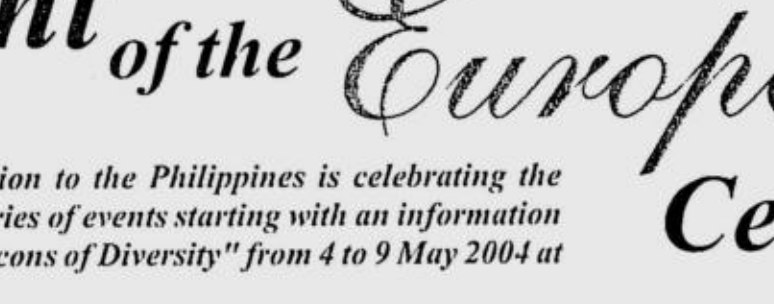
For the Philippines, enlargement means that the EU will remain an open market and will have become bigger and offer more opportunities. The Philippines will benefit from a lower common customs tariff in the new Member States, since the average weighted industrial tariffs of the acceding countries are higher than the 3.6% average of the EU. With accession, the new Member States lost their transition economy status and become part of the Common Customs Union. As a result they will have to offer preferential tariffs to third countries in line with the EU GSP scheme. This means, again lower duties for Philippine exporters in the enlarged EU.

The Accession Countries

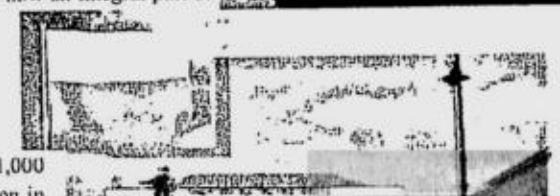
Hungary

On 25 March 1990, free, multi-party parliamentary elections are held in Hungary for the first time in 43 years, with a turnout of 70%. Of the 386 seats, MDF acquires 165, SZDSZ 91, the Independent Small Holder's Party 44, the Hungarian Socialist Party 33, Fidesz 21, the Christian Democratic Party 21, the Agrarian Alliance 1, the independents 6 and the joint candidates 4 seats after the second round on 8 April. MDF and SZDSZ agree on appointing Árpád Gönez, SZDSZ, as provisional President of the Republic, who appoints József Antall, MDF Party President, to form a Government.

In 1998, a coalition of FIDESz, MDF and Smallholders wins the parliamentary elections; Viktor Orbán becomes Prime Minister. The year 1999 marks Hungary's membership in NATO. In 2002, a left-liberal coalition of MSzP and SzDSz wins the parliamentary elections in April; Peter Medgyessy becomes Prime Minister.



Malta boosts a rich legacy from its centuries-old history, from megalithic temples -unique in the world- to its capital Valletta, a jewel of baroque architecture, and its massive fortifications which witnessed the bravery of the Maltese people over the centuries. Again, in 1942, the courage and endurance of the Maltese people was recognised when the United Kingdom awarded to Malta the George Cross in 1942, which is now an integral part of the national flag.

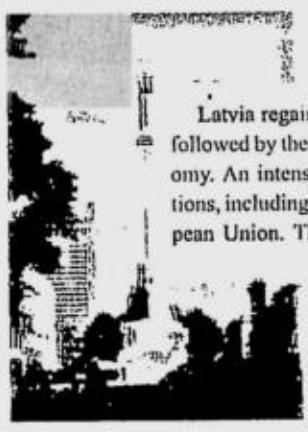


The Polish state is over 1,000 years old and holds a distinction in Europe as the first to ratify a constitution on May 3, 1791 under the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania. Soon after Poland ceased to exist for 123 years, upon being partitioned by its neighbours Russia, Austria and Prussia. It regained independence in 1918 for only 20 years. In 1989, the first partially free elections in Poland's post-war history concluded the Solidarity movement's ten-year struggle for freedom and resulted in the defeat of Poland's communist rulers. In 1998 Poland joined NATO and began negotiating its full membership in the European Union.

The Republic of Cyprus gained its independence from Britain in 1960 foreseeing a bi-communal structure i.e. peaceful existence of both communities side by side. In 1963, however, political crisis and inter-communal violence broke out, which resulted in 1974 in a de facto partition of the island. Although efforts have been made to settle the Cyprus issue under the auspices of the UN until now, the country still remains divided. However the ban on crossing to and from the south has been lifted on 23 April 2003 for both Turkish and Greek Cypriots. In the first eight days thereafter approximately 90.000 Greek Cypriots and 30.000 Turkish Cypriots took advantage of this situation crossing the line between the north and the south in a general sentiment of joy. No incidents were reported, on the contrary a warm welcome was given to the visiting Greek Cypriots by Turkish Cypriots and to the visiting Turkish Cypriots by the Greek Cypriots.

The Czech Republic

The Communist coup ushered in a long period of political repression and a harsh process of collectivisation and nationalisation of agriculture, industry and trade took place. In the late 1960s a reform movement known as the "Prague Spring" emerged in Czechoslovakia under the leadership of Alexander Dubcek, a reform-minded general secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party who aimed to create "socialism with a human face". The Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries, however, feared that these ideas threatened the existence of the communist system, and they invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968. A hard-line regime was consequently installed under Gustáv Husák, which erased all traces of reform in a process known as "Normalisation". However, some dissident thinking continued, as expressed by Vaclav Havel and other adherents of "Charter 77". During this period of political stagnation the communist system further eroded and finally collapsed in the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989. After more than forty years of communist dictatorship former playwright and dissident Václav Havel was elected President of Czechoslovakia, symbolising the re-emergence of democracy in the Czech lands. On 1 January 1993, the Czech and Slovak Republics became two sovereign states after a negotiated process to separate



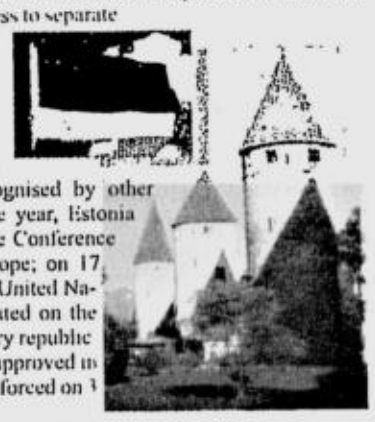
Latvia regained its independence in August 1991. This was followed by the installation of democracy and of a market economy. An intensive co-operation emerged with democratic nations, including and foremost European Countries and the European Union. This process is leading to Latvia's accession in 2004 to both NATO and the European Union.

Lithuania

On 24 February 1990, Sajudis won 106 seats out of a total of 114 in the local Supreme Council elections: the Council restored Lithuania's independence on 11 March 1990. Moscow refused to accept this vote and attempted, on 13 January 1991 while the world's attention was focused on the Iraqi war, to overthrow Lithuania's legitimate Government. The crackdown, carried out by armed forces against unarmed citizens, resulted in 14 deaths at the now historical TV tower. Lithuania, which was the first Baltic State to restore independence, paved the way for a peaceful and bloodless restoration process in Latvia and Estonia.

Lithuania joined the United Nations on 17 September 1991, and Russian troops were finally withdrawn from Lithuanian territory on 31 August 1993

Estonia



Following the attempted coup in Moscow in August 1991, Estonia unilaterally declared the restoration of its independence, and was quickly recognised by other countries. On 10 September the same year, Estonia was accepted as a member state of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe; on 17 September it became a member of the United Nations. A new constitution was elaborated on the basis of the principles of a parliamentary republic. On 28 June 1992 the constitution was approved in a referendum, and was subsequently enforced on 3 July 1992

Slovenia

After World War I it was absorbed in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1929). Then in 1941, during World War II, Germany, Hungary, and Italy divided the territory among themselves. In spite of forced transfers of populations during the war, since 1945 most Slovenes have lived in the Slovenian republic, which in 1947 also acquired Slovenian-speaking districts on the Adriatic Sea (in Istria) from Italy.

Slovenia held the first multiparty elections in Yugoslavia since World War II in April 1990. The winning coalition called for independence, and nearly 90 percent of Slovenia's population voted for independence in a referendum in December 1990.

Slovak Republic

Officially, the Slovak Republic came into existence on January 1, 1993. Except for a brief period during World War II, during which Slovakia was a protectorate state of Nazi Germany, the Slovak people have been subjected to domination by stronger political entities, such as the Czechs of the Czechoslovak federation, the Magyars of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the sovereigns of the Habsburg Empire.

Although the history of the Slovak people as expressed in the nation state is less than a decade old, Slovaks have existed as a unique entity for over 1500 years.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

FRIENDS and other strangers meet at Campbell Lane in Little India.

Shootout in Singapore

Text and photos
by Ernie U. Sarmiento

OF COURSE, Singapore is a photographer's dream.

And more than 200 photographers representing 32 countries worldwide took part late last year in daily "shootouts" in the art belts and cultural enclaves that mark this tiny but vibrant city.

The shootout routes included a special tour of the Esplanade, the durian-shaped art center, the Civic District, the Singapore River, Orchard Road, Robertson Quay, Chinatown, Waterloo and Little India.

The National Arts Council of Singapore and the Photographic Society of Singapore sponsored the ClickArt-World Photojournalist Meet 2003, held at the Raffles City Convention Center.

The delegates took part in workshop-discussions of the latest developments and techniques now making waves in the profession and in art photography.

Having visited Singapore thrice since the Flor Contemplacion days, I skipped the Orchard Road and Civic District routes and focused on the cultural enclaves. I have long been fascinated by Singapore's mix of Malay, Chinese and Indian races. Years of peaceful coexistence have produced a progressive country—an achievement that has long eluded Philippine leaders.

ARE they phoning home? Three men each hog a booth in Little India.

THE DURIAN-SHAPED Esplanade dominates the skyline of the business district.

CHINATOWN fruit stall shows off a bounty of bananas.

BREAKFAST is quality time between a woman and her granddaughter in Chinatown.

TravelBriefs

Treat for Mom

YOU can treat your mother today to "Life with Mom," the Mother's Day promo of the Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite.

An overnight stay at the resort hotel comes with assorted perks; so does a lunch or dinner bill of at least P800 at the Xiang Li Fusion Restaurant, Fishing Village or Island Café.

For inquiries, call (02) 810-3718 in Makati or (046) 434-0210 in Cavite.

Budget-friendly travel

CITIBANK cardholders may enjoy budget-friendly travel this summer to these exciting places:

- Bohol, with its famed Chocolate Hills, blue waters, spectacular dive spots, historical and cultural places, and man-made forests.
- Boracay, consistently rated as one of the world's best tropical beaches.
- Cebu, the Philippines' oldest city, which includes Mactan Island (famous for scuba diving), Moalboal (for beautiful coral reefs and white-sand beaches) and the Olango Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Palawan, touted as the "haven of Philippine wildlife," and described by renowned underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau as the most beautiful place he has ever explored.
- Puerto Galera, a year-round diving destination for both beginning and experienced divers, with exotic and colorful marine life and coral gardens.

Cardholders may book with Citibank's travel partner, TQ3 Travel Solutions, and pay in full or in easy installments.

They can also check out resorts in Pagsanjan, Caylabne, Matabungkay, Hidden Valley, Hundred Islands, Tagaytay, Baguio and Subic for overnight packages, or Fontana, Club Morocco, Eight Waves, Canyon Woods, Villa Escudero, Corregidor and Eagle Point for corporate outings and team-building seminars.

Call TQ3 Travel Solutions at 885-7212 in Manila or visit www.tq3ph.com.ph, or contact the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

Target markets

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism has identified 12 target market segments in a short-term marketing plan that aims to boost domestic tourism beginning this year.

These are expatriates, youth/students, families, sports/adventure seekers, business travelers and investors, special interest groups, government employees, visiting friends and relatives (VFRs)/OFWs, retirees, associations, couples, and pilgrimage/religious groups.

The DOT has also specified marketing activities that would address the targets through a new domestic tourism program called "Ganda ng Pilipinas, Galing ng Pilipino."

The activities include the WOW Summer Tour Program, the Holiday Economics Tour packages, budget tours, meetings and incentive packages, youth/student travel exchange and excursions, and special interest tours.

Under the WOW Summer Tour Program come such tour packages as Biyaheng Singko-Singko, Strong Republic Nautical Highway Caravan, Camp North 2004, and Mindanao Caravan for Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

There are also such existing projects as Best of the Regions, Light and Sound Museum, Regional Food Festivals, mall sales, fam trips, and home-stay programs.

The DOT is likewise gearing for more aggressive marketing through direct mail, CD-ROMs, and other collateral materials.

This development was announced as a result of the recent Tourism Marketing Workshop in which the DOT and private-sector representatives took part.

"Mr. Lopez"

Manager during office hours

Uses his company-issued

SMART GOLD post-paid plan

as his Primary Line

to make official business calls.

The SMART Multi-Line SIM. Now on SMART Gold.

Experience the convenience and flexibility of multiple active lines in one handset.

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to call family and friends.

After reinventing SIM technology, SMART now offers you the affordability of a pre-paid account – or a consumable plan for as low as ₱500 – for your secondary line.

Enjoy these features:

- SMART Buddy. It's the first pre-paid brand in the country you can use on a multiple-line SIM card. Use it as your secondary line and enjoy a P6.50/minute flat rate on SMART-to-SMART calls. Or choose from any of our post-paid plans for your secondary line and have separate billing statements for each line for better organization and account management.
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- All lines are active so you can conveniently receive calls and messages from any of your lines even if one is in use.
- Switch between lines through a user-friendly menu.

Subscribe to SMART Gold today and appreciate the value of a SMART Multi-Line SIM.

Primary Line	Secondary Line
SMART GOLD *Simply The Gold Life.*	**SMART Gold Consumable Plan 500***
	Addict Mobile Consumable Plan 500*
	SMART Buddy Pre-paid
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*Available only as a secondary line for your SMART Multi-Line SIM.

FREE SIM Upgrade*

to the SMART Multi-Line SIM until May 31, 2004 at the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

*For existing SMART Gold subscribers availing of a secondary post-paid line. To avail of a secondary post-paid line, present a fully-accomplished After Sales Form, waiver, valid I.D., and your existing SMART Gold SIM card. Requirements are subject for approval by SMART Communications. There will be a 6-month lock-in period for the approved secondary post-paid line.

Pay only P100 when you avail of a pre-paid account as your secondary line.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1964, Series of 2004.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, *888 using your SMART cellfone, the SMART Corporate Hotline at #888, send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies), e-mail us at smartgold@smart.com.ph, visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you

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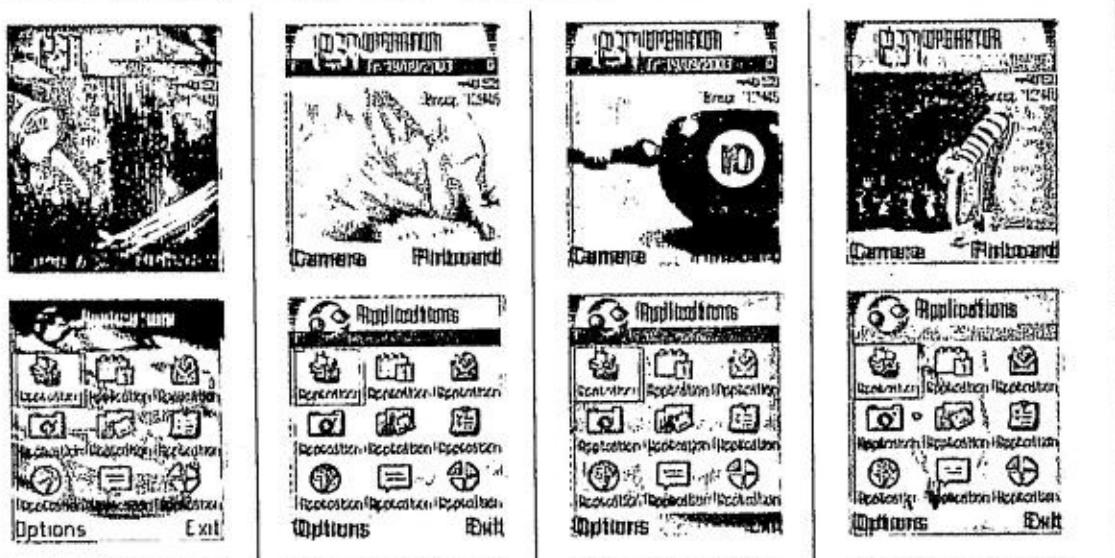

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A Mother's Day tribute from Johnson's® baby

Bonding for Life

MY SON calls me Mother Goose. You see, he's a very imaginative boy, my Julio, and has resorted to giving each and every member of our family an animal name. His sister Bianca he calls Tiger. And his daddy, who'd much rather be a jaguar or an eagle, he calls peacock. I am Mother Goose.

Truly, nothing comes close to the bond between mother and child. Unlike the relationship you share with your husband, which was borne out of love, the bond between mother and child comes from the miracle of life itself.

Yet, as a working mom, I know how hard it is to nurture this bond. It's a tough act trying to keep up with weekend trips, birthday parties and trips to the little gym while working on marketing plans and meeting sales projections.

For this Special Mother's Day supplement, Johnson's Baby celebrates the bond between mother and child. It doesn't take much time and money to develop a healthy relationship with your child. You can bond with your child while giving him a bath, putting him to sleep or reading him a story. All it takes is love and as I so happily learned from my son, a little imagination.

Happy mother's day.

Rezel Aquino

Rezel Aquino
Group Brand Manager
Baby and Kids Franchise

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Johnson's® baby

Bonding for Life

MY SON calls me Mother Goose. You see, he's a very imaginative boy, my Julio, and has resorted to giving each and every member of our family an animal name. His sister Bianca he calls Tiger. And his daddy, who'd much rather be a jaguar or an eagle, he calls peacock. I am Mother Goose.

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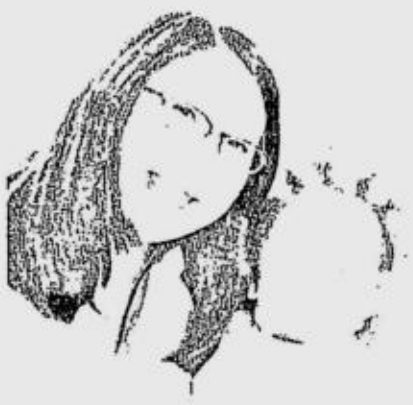

My pillow

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All photos and articles reprinted from the Johnson's Baby & Me' Supplement n Good Housekeeping May issue. Good Housekeeping is a title of Summit Media.

Baby & Me Photo Contest Winners

MYLENE TORRES
"How do I bond with my baby Ysabela? It's through a lot of fun, love and laughter-filled cuddles."

MARIA SENTA B. CASTRO
"I impart to my baby the joy and color of life. Together, we experience the wonders of touching and the beauty of nature. I help him develop the powers of his mind by stimulating his sense of adventure and curiosity."

JOANNE AUSTRIA
"Every morning, before getting up, my baby Bea and I pray together and play with her favorite pillow. She loves it when I bathe her and I enjoy doing things for her such as dressing her up and fixing her hair.

CHERRY JOY UY
"I bond with my baby by giving him a mom's warm embrace and kissing him all over."

KARISSA VER TAN
"Bonding for me, means spending a lot of time with my baby. I bathe her, breastfeed her, play with her, change her, put her to sleep. My full time job is to be with my baby, Mika."

CATHERINE CHUA
"Even when I'm working, I still find time to play with my baby and spend a lot of time with him."

Johnson's baby

Johnson's baby

Baby & Me
Photo Contest Winners

MYRA MENGUITO
"I bond with my children by giving them my whole self, making each moment perfect and unforgettable. I make sure that with each bonding moment, they feel the Lord's perfect love for them."

MARJORIE ANN ZIALCITA
"Bonding between my son Enzo and myself comes naturally - it happens amidst even the simplest things we do together."

BINKY BUSE
"At nine months, Venice loves to chew on our alphabet rubber mats. One day, I ended up joining the chomp marathon because I discovered that Venice enjoys seeing me imitate her, making her giggle uncontrollably. Im simply enthralled."

BOOTS PAMA
"I take care of all my son's needs, and that's how I bond with him. I don't simply breastfeed, bathe, massage or change him, I also talk, play, listen, massage, praise and give him lots of hugs and kisses everyday."

MAYLEEN SALVADOR
"I make sure that even the simplest of activities such as washing hands or changing diapers is fun for my son. We turn everything into a game. Hearing him giggle gives me a great high."

ANNA CRUZ
"The love we share cannot be quantified in words. The feel of my touch imparts more love than anything else. I could give my little girl, Trisha. Simple acts such as holding her in my arms, a gentle kiss or a loving embrace brings out an inner joy to her face.

Johnson's® baby

My merry-go-round

Johnson's baby

Real moms tell it like it is

Hectic mothers share their bonding experiences

By Kristine C. Tabada

CHALLENGING. That's how most modern women would refer to motherhood, that's most noble of task. Since most mommies now have careers outside of their homes, it's an everyday struggle to devote 100 percent of their chosen professions, keep house and at the same time, spend precious bonding moments with their kids. We asked four exceptional super mommies how they juggle career and home. And here's what they have to say.

On everyday bonding

Bey Benito: "I'm breastfeeding Dominique, and for me that's already bonding for us. We have a day care here in the office so I can still breastfeed here in the office."

Jackie Bautista: "Santy sleeps at around nine in the evening. When my husband and I come home, he wakes up and that's the time we play."

Yvette Florendo: "Whatever time I have at home, I make sure I spend it with them. Like when I wake up, they watch me take a bath, brush my teeth and get ready for work."

Mia Castrillo: "When I was pregnant with my first child Nadine, I would massage and talk to my tummy. "Kaya pag labas ng baby may bond na. When I gave birth to Nadine. I quit my job. And I had no yaya until her 11 month. Nadine likes to doing pretend play now. Recently, when we're eating, she calls the helper who acts as the waitress. She also has play money and pretends to pay the bill."

On finding time

Yvette: "We go to the mall. They like to go to Timezone and play. We also go to the park. Reese and I jog around while Raine takes a walk or plays in the swing. At this early age, I want them to learn the value of exercise.

Mia: "When I'm working, Nadine wants to be working with me also. She has a separate envelope with scratch paper, scissors, pencils and crayons. She does her own thing like coloring and painting.

Jackie: "It's hard. When we spend time in the evenings, I'd prefer that I be the one to put him to sleep, instead of his yaya, because that's the only time we have. That's also the time we cuddle."

Bey: "I make sure we spend time with my parents every weekend. Since we live in a compound, my in-laws see the kids every day. We go to church with David attending Sunday school.

Jackie: "I give Santy his bath during weekends. We then play on the bed or on his little gym. I take his pictures monthly because I want to see how he grows. I'm also completing his baby book, like 'My first nail clippings'. I also fill his baby album with complete dates and descriptions."

Finding balance

Mia: "It's hard having a baby and a toddler. That's why I make sure I respond to their needs when they cry, whether it is because of pain, hunger or even when they need companionship, because they are able to trust me."

Jackie: "I wish I could be a housewife, but I need this for myself. Give your best as a mom and a wife. Every opportunity you have, spend time with your baby, especially now that they grow up so fast."

Yvette: "Manage your time and spend it wisely. You should also have time for yourself, time to be alone. Create that happy environment. Remember that you're not just a mom, you're also their friend."

Bey: "Manage time at work, so that you spend your peak time at home. It is important to spend your time with them, not your leftover hours. Always pray for them and make time for your husband and don't take them for granted."

Johnson's baby Bedtime Break

6 Soothing Tips to Fight Work-related Stress

Relaxing Tip #1: **Prepare for the next day**
If you know that tomorrow is going to be a stressful day at work, prepare yourself by taking a multivitamin and getting as much sleep as you can. Before going to bed, take a little time to bond with your kids by doing light activities such as reading a book to them. The fulfillment you'll feel from bonding with your kids allows you to calm down before facing that challenging workday ahead.

Relaxing Tip #2: **Release facial muscle tension**
Tense facial muscles lead to tension headaches. Especially during those long and busy days in the office, try to find time to take five minutes to massage the inner corners of your brows, working your way out to your temples, moving down to the hinges of your jaw. You'll instantly relieve locked up stress.

Relaxing Tip #3: **Go out for a walk**
If you work on a computer all day long, try getting up and going for a walk outside the office even for five minutes for a change of view, a breath of fresh air and a drop of sunlight. Sunlight triggers chemical reactions in your system which help fight tension, release pent up stress and lets you think twice before reacting negatively to stressful situations.

Relaxing Tip #4: **Don't forget to breathe!**
Taking deep breaths helps release pent-up stress and lets you think twice before reacting negatively to stressful situations. Take three deep breaths before saying something to someone which you might regret later (and therefore cause more stress), and five big ones before delving into the huge load of paperwork on your desk.

Relaxing Tip #5: **Opt for healthy drinks and snacks**
In the middle of the hectic workday, don't reach for soda, coffee, chips or sugar-fix. Caffeine, sodium and sugar give you a short-lived energy buzz and lead to a system crash. Soothe your nerves instead with lots of water to keep you hydrated, and snack on fresh fruits and nuts.

Relaxing Tip #6:
Soothe your senses
After a long day, de-stress by pampering yourself with natural soothing products.
New Johnson's Baby BEDTIME is a range of products that contain the natural scents of lavender and chamomile to help you feel relaxed and worry-free.

My everything

Your baby truly knows how much you're worth.
To the woman who is everything,
Happy Mother's Day
from
Johnson's baby

Choosing the Right School (Back to School)

CWC: Working together for women

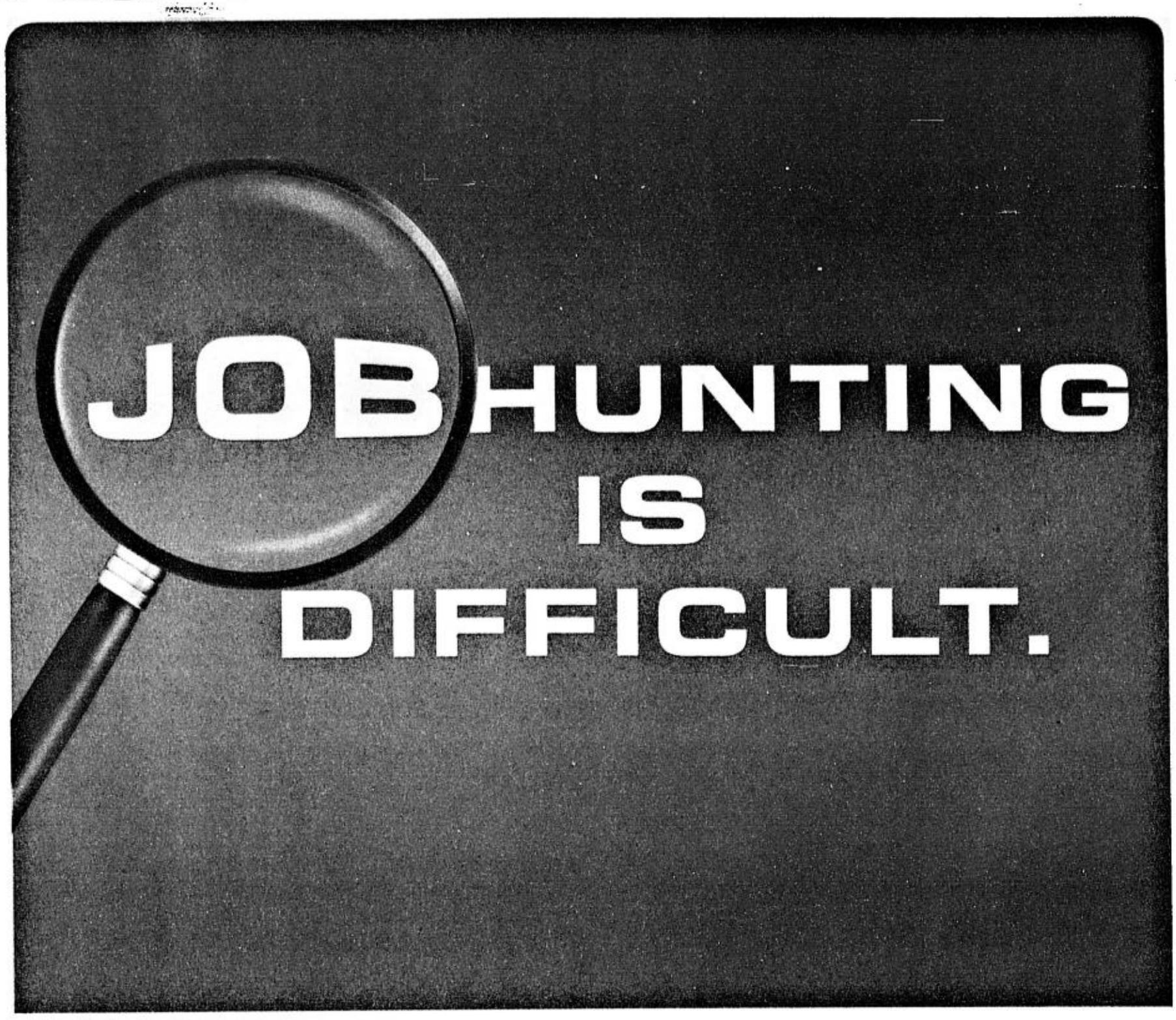
MIRIAM College maintains strong partnerships and linkages with other women's colleges and with women's networks. It is a founding member of the Consortium of Women's Colleges (CWC), a group of catholic women's colleges that collectively seek to transform society through the education and empowerment of women. As catholic institutions for women the consortium has to work to counteract the natural patriarchy of the Catholic Church.

On October 12, 2001, five of the country's top women's colleges-Assumption College, College of the Holy Spirit, Miriam College, St. Paul's College of Quezon City, and St. Scholastica's College-joined forces to launch the CWC.

"Getting to know our similarities and difference as well as our strengths and weaknesses paved the way for determining the possible areas for cooperation," says Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB, former president of St. Scholastica's College.

Headed by an executive council composed of the presidents and top administrators of each college, the CWC's activities are reflected in the work of its varied active committees-academic, research, student affairs, social action, finance, human resources, information technology, administrative support, library, registrars, and campus ministry.

Miriam College: A Women's College for the 21st Century



The start of the 21st century has seen unprecedented growth and progress in many fields of human endeavor: economic, social, cultural, political, scientific, technological, and educational. Women's colleges have a special role to play in educating women for leadership.

Looking Back

Dr. Patricia Licuanan, president of Miriam College, says women's colleges were first established in the 1600s, most of which were founded by Catholic religious congregations of nuns.

"Students were recruited through a feeder system of grade schools and high schools run by the same order of nuns and in fact part of the same system. These colleges generally offered liberal arts programs then expanded to professional courses usually in "feminine" fields such as home economics, nutrition, nursing, interior design and of course, teaching. These women colleges existed alongside all-male institutions. In the 1970s the more prestigious male colleges turned coeducational. Many of the natural candidates for women's colleges chose to enroll at these new coeducational institutions. Many women's colleges themselves began admitting males to counteract decreasing enrollments."

Most of the early educational institutions had European traditions inherited from the European congregations that founded them. One school that stood out was Maryknoll College, which was perceived to be more modern with its American style of teaching and more outspoken and forthright students. This school later became Miriam College, which continues to be a leading institution for women.

CWC/ L2

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LCCM forges ties with Hebei Normal University of China

INTENSIFYING its trust on global collaboration with educational institutions abroad,

La Consolacion College Manila recently forged a partnership with Hebei Normal University of the People's Republic of China.

The partnership has as its goal the promotion of bilateral cooperation between the two institutions in the fields of cooperative scientific research, exchange programs for both faculty and students, international conferences, intercultural exchange and other joint projects.

Just like LCCM, Hebei Normal University is also a century-old school that has established its name and reputation in the process of its one hundred years' development.

Aside from HNU La Consolacion College Manila has built friendly relationships with universities abroad such as Shijiazhuang University of Economics in China, Kyongju University in South Korea, Mahidol University in Thailand and Baewha Women's College in Seoul, Korea.

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* *BS Computer Science*
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* *BS Computer Information Management*
* *Associate in Computer Technology*

SCHOOL OF NURSING
* *BS Nursing*
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* *Caregiver Program*

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
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* *AB Psychology*
* *AB Mass Communication*

SCHOOL OF TOURISM AND HOTEL & RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT
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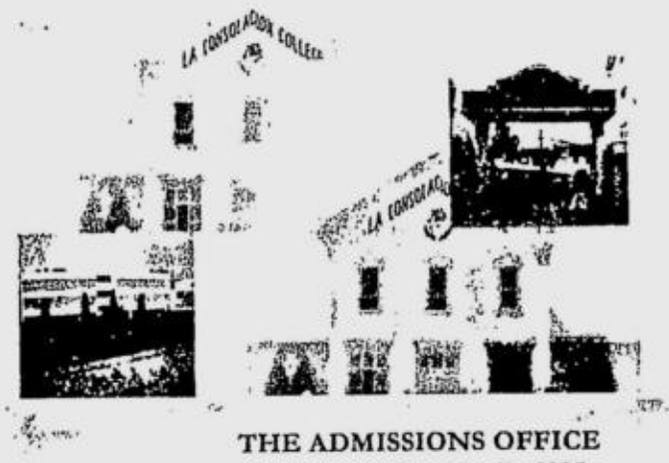

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ASAS general assembly focuses on the process of leadership-followership

STRENGTHENING the process of leadership-followership in building an Asas community of compassion, justice and peace was the focal point of the 3-day educational planning workshop conducted by the Augustinian Sisters Association of Schools (Asas) last April at the Ma. Consuelo Barcello Auditorium of La Consolacion College Manila.

The workshop saw religious and lay administrators of the twenty four (24) Augustinians schools working out plans for the implementation of the Resolutions passed by ASOLC's 19th General Chapter last December 2003. The Chapter Resolutions include:

1. That the Congregation develop alternatives to human resources building that will sustain longer partnership and working relationship with its Lay personnel;

2. That the General Leadership make an assessment of all ASOLC school as basis for developing forward-looking programs and projects for the school apostolate;

3. That a feasibility study be made on the possibility of adapting a Unified University / ASAS System

Sr. Ma. Luz Mijares, OSA, superior general of the Augustinians Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation (ASOLC), in her keynote address delved the aspects of leadership-followership in a community of compassion, justice and peace, symbolic, relational and structural dimensions of leadership as well as the shadow life of a leaders.

In her speech, Sr. Ma. Luz defined leadership as a "force within a congregation and within its apostolate of schools that ignites the spiritual and psychic energies of the members to follow their dream for the Reign of Gods." She also underscored the idea that "Leadership is a compassionate participation in the life of group" and that "authority with compassion invites the group into a life of Leadership-Followership. It is compassion in authority that invites rather than control, nurtures rather than constricts."

The 3-day planning workshop yielded concrete action plans for the realization and implementation of the Chapter Resolutions of Asas

UE LAW ALUMNI AMONG NEW GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES HONORED

The University of the East, in cooperation with the UE Alumni Association (UEAAI) and the UE Law Alumni Association Inc (UELAAI), recently held a testimonial dinner in honor of four alumni of its College of Law who were recently appointed to key government positions: Court of Appeals Associate Justices Japar B. Dimaampao, Arturo G. Tayag and Vicente L. Yap, and Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio O. Garcillano. The event, held on April 29 at the Maynila Ballroom of the Manila Hotel, also feted the UE College of Law graduates who successfully hurdled the 2003 Bar examinations. Photo shows the four honorees with some of UE's top officials (who are also UE alumni): (from left) the Dean of the UE College of Law, Justice Reynaldo L. Suarez, Commissioner Garcillano, retired Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Rodolfo G. Palattao, UE executive vice president Carmelita G. Mateo, UE acting president and chief academic officer Baltazar N. Endriga, Justice Dimaampao, Justice Yap, Justice Tayag and lawyer Ariel Joseph B. Arias, president of both the UEAAI and the UELAAI.

CWC: Working together for women

From page L1

"Miriam College also experimented with coeducation for about 15 years," Dr. Licuanan continues. "A few years ago after much discussion and debate, the school decided to return to being an all women's institution. It was not an easy decision. But the decision was based primarily on what would best allow the College to fulfill its mission and give it a clear and distinct identity.

The decision was an aggressive, proactive, visible assertion of our chosen niche. We didn't simply want to be just another college the majority of whose students happened to be women. We wanted to proudly shout to the world and to all our publics---WE ARE A WOMEN'S COLLEGE!"

Looking Forward

So what does being a women's college mean today in the 21st century?

Dr. Licuanan explains that it means "to aggressively expand options and outcomes for women beyond marriage and motherhood and stereotyped careers. While traditional women's colleges employ a complementarity of roles paradigm in improving the status of women, 21st century women's colleges should use an equality paradigm and a rights approach. Equality, rights, and empowerment should not simply be the offshoots of giving a good education. They should be explicit over-arching goals of 21st century women's colleges."

Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan, president of Miriam College (second from left) spoke at a panel on "Empowering Women in Asia: The Urgent Need for Higher Education" at the Asia Society in New York. She is shown above with Loida Nicolas-Lewis, George Sarros, Jean Lobell and Marian Riuman.

DR. MONA VALISNO, presidential adviser for Education and member of the Board of Advisers of the Commission on Higher Education (Ched) as honorable guest and commencement speaker during the 28th Commencement Exercises of Olivarez College, Parañaque City. Beside her is Dr. Pablo R. Olivarez, president and founder of Olivarez College and former outstanding mayor of Parañaque City.

DR. Eric L. Olivarez, vice president for academics and services of Olivarez College, welcomes Undersecretary Chito Gascon of the Department of Education (DepEd) during the 24th Commencement Exercises of Olivarez College - High School Department. Usec. Gascon who was the guest of honor and commencement speaker, reiterated to the graduates the importance of education. He said that the government is exerting efforts to raise the number of Filipino graduates by providing financial assistance through Safe 4SR. Olivarez College is one of the chosen recipients of this interest-free student loan program.

SARAP MAG-ARAL

Ginugutom ka ba kapag nag-aaral? Buti na lang masarap kumain dito sa Canteen ng Technological Institute of the Philippines. Pagkatapos kumain ng cheeseburger o spaghetti, gaganahan ka ulit mag-aral.
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OLIVAREZ COLLEGE
Administration and Staff headed by

Dr. Pablo R. Olivarez
Founder and President

School Year 2004-2005

COURSES OFFERINGS
GRADUATE STUDIES
Master in Business Administration (MBA)
Master of Arts in Education (MAEd)
major in Educational Management, Guidance and Counseling
COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCES AND EDUCATION (CASE)
Bachelor of Arts (AB) major in Mass Communication
Political Science, Psychology
(PACUCOA Level 2)
Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEED)
major in English, Filipino, Early Childhood
Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSED) major in English, Filipino, Physical Education, Guidance and Counseling
Six-Month Teacher Certificate Program (TCP)
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, TOURISM, COMPUTER SCIENCE , HOTEL AND RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT (CBATCH)
Bachelor of Science in Commerce (BSC)
major in Management, Marketing (PACUCOA Level 2)
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)
Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management (BSHRM)
Bachelor of Science in Tourism (BST)
Associate in Hotel and Restaurant Management (AHRM)
Associate in Computer Technician (ACT)
COLLEGE OF HEALTH RELATED SCIENCES (CHRS)
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) (PACUCOA Level 2)
Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy (BSPT)
Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology (BSRT)
Associate in Health Science Education (AHSE)
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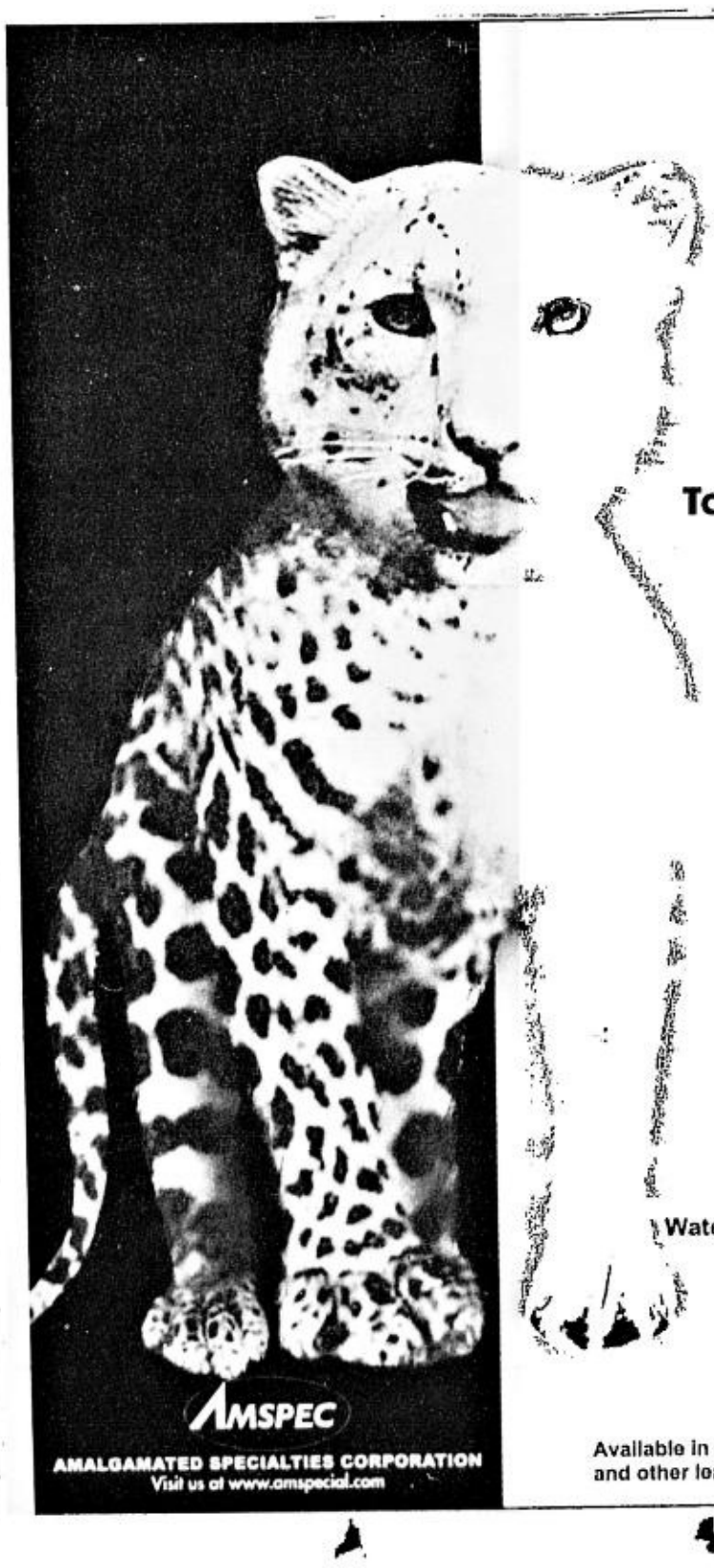

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Applying this conception to an academic enterprise, the result is Global City Innovative College.

A "global" vision

Global City Innovative College (GCIC) is a newly accredited, full-fledged school that is initially offering a highly competitive Nursing program for this coming school year. Unlike a multitude of fly-by-night schools, is in it for the long haul and bent on delivering the goods. Considering the amount of investment poured into the venture (a spacious building, high-tech facilities, an impressive faculty line-up), there can be no doubt as to the sincerity of objectives.

President and OIC Michael Tan asserts that the school's vision is to "actively help students make better choices by providing more options--options geared towards a rapidly evolving global culture." The objective is to provide Filipino students with an academic background that could open the door for fulfilling career opportunities both here and abroad. In line with this thrust, other interdisciplinary courses aside from the nursing program will soon be made available, together with short-term special interest courses and skill-intensive training programs.

Satisfying a need

The adoption by various countries a few years back of a policy restricting the entry of foreign nurses resulted in an inadvertent international shortage. The American Association of College Nurses estimates that the shortage of Registered Nurses in the United States will grow from today's 600,000 to a staggering 1.7 million by the year 2020. Likewise, the current demand for nurses, specifically Filipino nurses, in countries like Canada, the UK, Japan, and the Middle-East is overwhelming. Given such a pressing need, entry level staff nurses abroad earn between $25,000.00 to $45,000.00 a year, excluding various miscellaneous benefit packages. Studying to become a nurse is no longer just a secondary option. It has evolved into an attractive, financially rewarding vocation, however, insists on a caveat: students who are considering taking up nursing only for its pragmatic dividends will not last long in the field. Nursing is a genuine vocation that requires personal dedication and hard work. In order to stoke such idealism, the nursing program will be taught by a select faculty, members of which having long desired to institute reforms in the teaching and practice of the profession.

The edge

Subscribes to the view that the modern nurse has transcended the traditional role of mere care-giver. Far from just being "a doctor's assistant," he or she has become an indispensable multitasker: part administrator, counselor, medical professional, and techie. Thus, for its nursing course, offers an integrated pre-med curriculum at par with the most stringent international standards. The course is coupled with an IT-intensive instruction program that takes advantage of various internet-based facilities. This "e-nursing" training approach allows students to participate in direct info-exchanges with affiliated US-based hospitals, as well as interact in a virtual infirmary connected to foreign medical facilities. The more traditional "hand's on" training will be within the auspices of various government and privately-owned hospitals. An aggressive Job Assistance Program seeks to assure potential graduates a competitive edge in both the local and international job front. For example, extensive reviews for the TOEFL will be introduced as early as the third year. The school is also pursuing an ambitious undergraduate clerkship program in the US for its students. Aside from innovative academic and placement approaches, also boasts of first-class facilities, modern, fully centralized school building is strategically located in the heart of the Metropolis. Enclosed within a spacious suburban landscape, the campus location assures students of a safe and conducive learning environment. Easily accessible to both private vehicles and public transportation, the place is only a short walk from restaurant clusters and other commercial establishments. is currently accepting enrollees for first and second year students, with full accreditation for transferees. Financial aid and scholarships are likewise available for eligible students.

Global City Innovative College is located on the 3rd Floor of the HatchAsia Global Center, 31st St., E-Square Bonifacio SEZ, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. For inquiries, please call telephone numbers 818-0945, 818-0946, and 818-0973.

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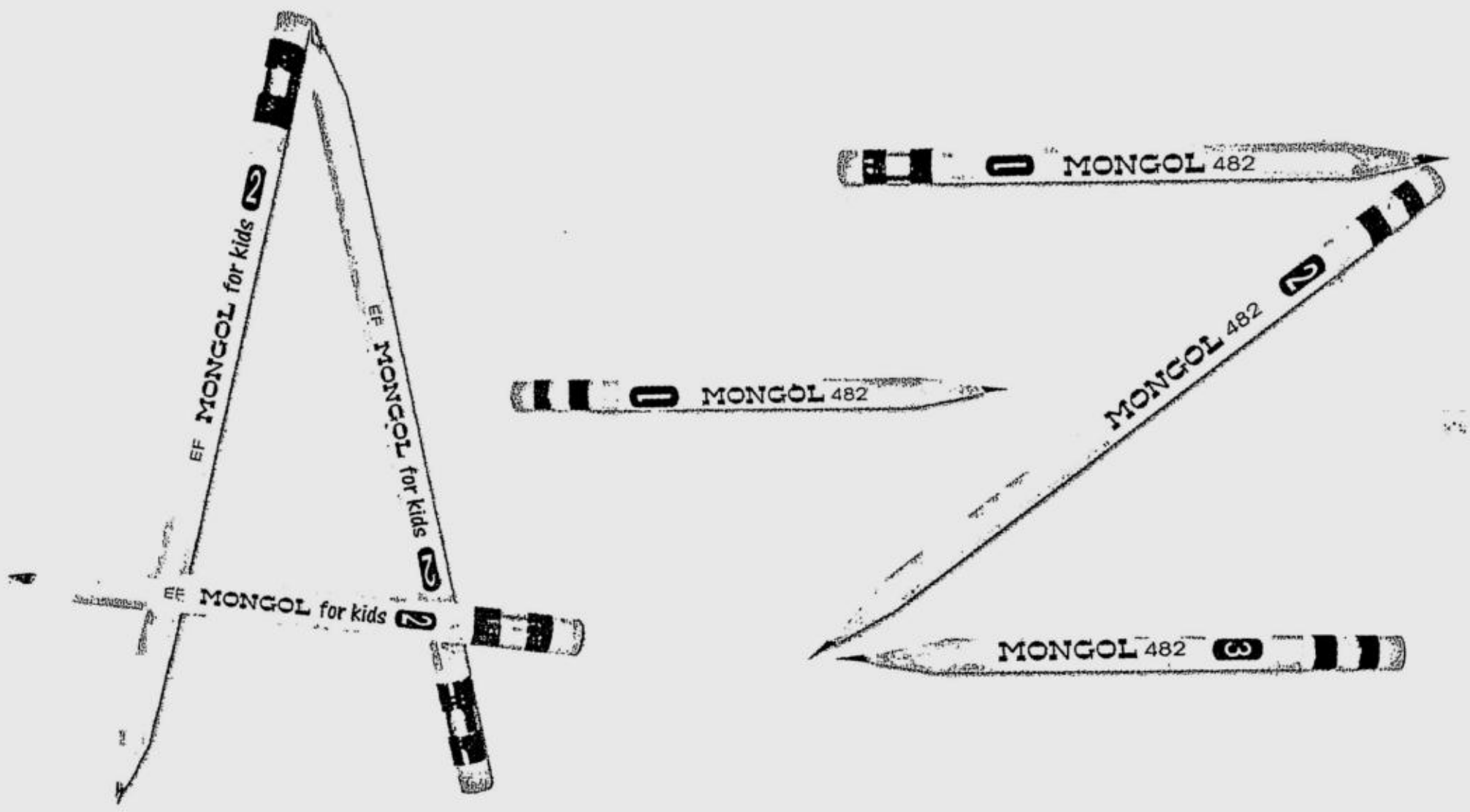

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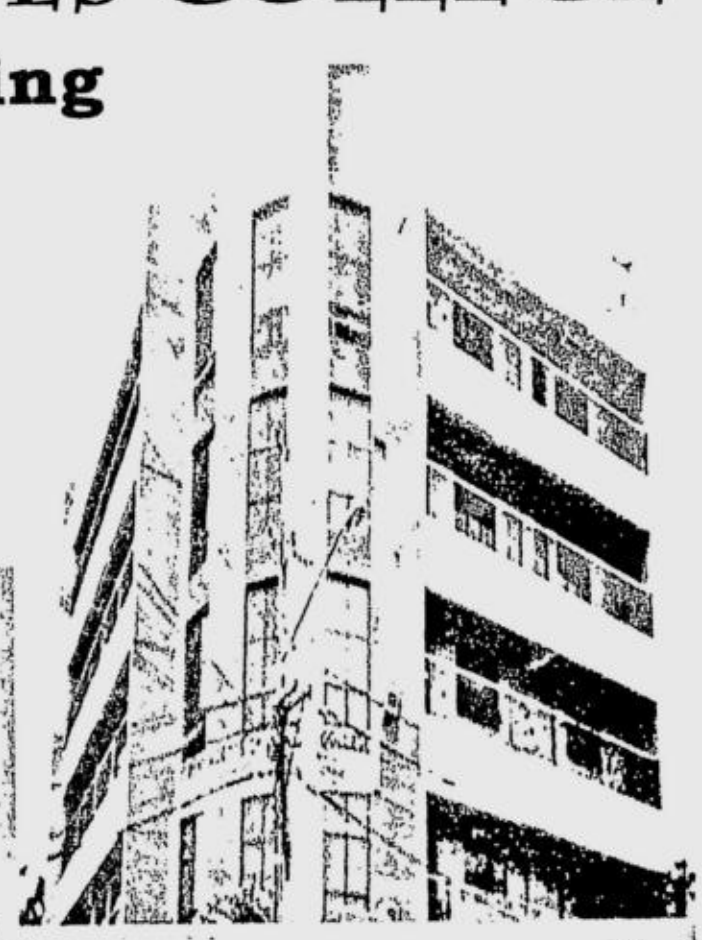

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special **PROJECT**

Inspired by Sandra

By Marlet D. Salazar

SHE has been helping schoolchildren who are having problems with their lessons for many years. She has, to some extent, a knack for child psychology and has been very successful in it as evidenced by the improvements children demonstrate after attending her tutorial classes.

But little did Obelia Lacanilao-Cutiongco know that she would be expanding (and extending) the scope of that passion to help children with special cases.

Cutiongco, the person behind Dynaminds Tutorial Center, realized the needs of these special kids when she gave birth to her youngest daughter Sandra. Sandra was born with Downs Syndrome.

Sandra's condition did not discourage the family a bit. In fact, Cutiongco said, her eldest child Danielle, 9, "is the one who shows a lot of interest in learning more about her sister's condition."

"I was inspired to cater to new clients—special children such as the mentally retarded, Downs Syndrome and to those who have hearing problems," said Cutiongco.

Before having Sandra, Cutiongco had little knowledge of children with Downs. She used to think that, because some of them have difficulty in communicating with others, they would have to remain confined in their homes.

"I thought that it would be hard for them to attend regular school because they wouldn't be able cope with what is expected of them as students, that they would forever remain delayed in their speech and mental and physical development," she said.

But all that changed, and she is pursuing a goal that will not only benefit her child but the other kids as well.

The family didn't have any difficulty accepting her youngest daughter's condition. Cutiongco's two sisters-in-law are a geneticist and a child psychologist. Her mother-in-law is a reading specialist, while her sister is a preschool teacher. The all-out family support was there.

They didn't see Sandra any different.

But she still did not discount the immense

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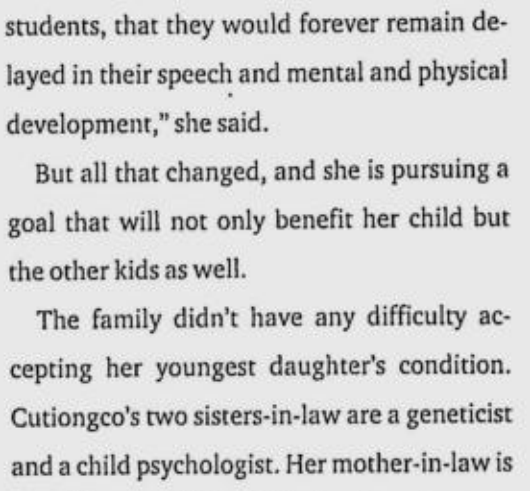
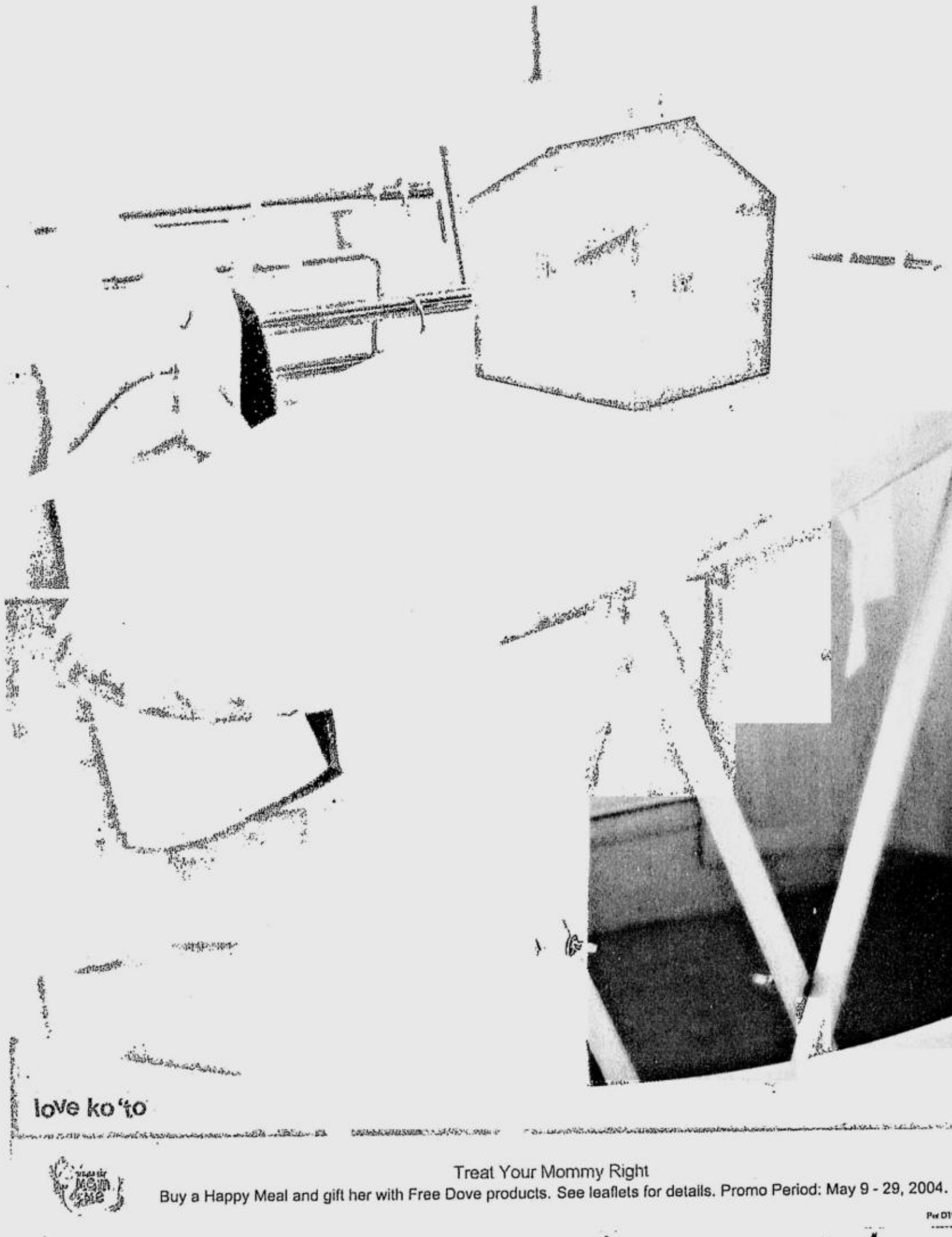


CUTIONGCO with her two bundles of joy, Danielle and Sandra.

Give mom a break. It's her day today.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 7194 Series of 2004

Make mom Hapee this Mother's Day

OH NO! It's Mother's Day and you don't have a gift yet! Don't worry. The truth is, you don't need to buy a gift. Here are some Hapee suggestions on how to say thank you to the one person who wants you to sparkle:

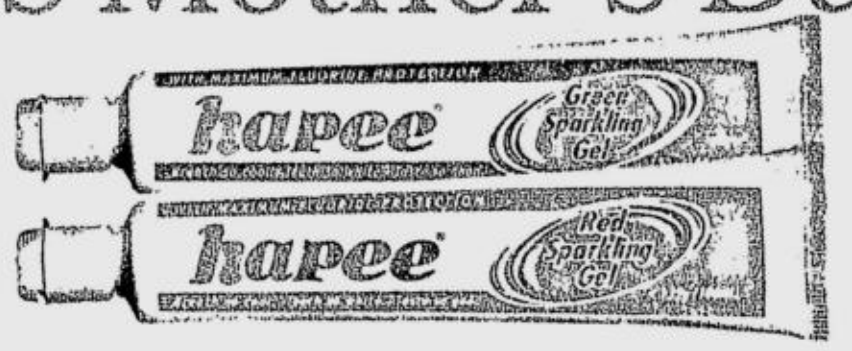
• ***Hapee Moms are pampered.*** For this day at the very least, free your mom from the household chores. You do the brushing (and the dishes, and the laundry, and the house). This does two things: it lets your mom rest her aching lower back and it shows her how much you appreciate all the hard work she puts in everyday just to make you feel comfortable.

• ***Hapee Moms deserve a feast.*** Today, for a change, wake up before your mom does. Yes, we know it's a Sunday and you need to rest but you never hear your mom complain when she wakes up early everyday do you? So just for this day, set your alarm clock, wake up earlier, and make her a surprise breakfast. If she still wakes up earlier than you, there's always lunch and dinner.

• ***Hapee Moms are appreciated.*** Every day you spend at home is a day full of reminders. Don't forget this, drink this, fix that, do that. These reminders are there because your mom is looking out for you, because she wants the best for you. Today try to do everything you should before mom tells you too. Eat your breakfast, wash your plates, fix your bed, etc. Let her know you listen.

• ***Hapee Moms are kissed.*** When all else fails, there's the tried-and-tested, always-special gift: a hug and a kiss. But before you give your mom your sweetest kiss, remember to brush your teeth. Make sure you use Hapee Sparkling Gel. Only Hapee can give you clean teeth and fresh breath like no other.

With these Hapee suggestions, your mom will surely have a Hapee Mother's Day!



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LG Electronics is set to aggressively make inroads into the global digital TV market, by introducing its sophisticated digital image technology. LGE is poised to release new digital TV's that adopt the XD Engine, a chip developed to enhance picture quality, as well as to promote the XD Engine, as its premier global technology brand. The full line up of digital TV's will enable LGE to broaden its related domestic market base.

The XD Engine has improved on the XDRpro, the previous chip that the company developed to enhance picture through digital image signal treatment. The XD Engine can perfectly treat digital signals and resolve problems due to varying signal strengths in the process of transmission, thus improving brightness and contrast two-fold.

The XD Engine is a result of LGE's continuing research and development on image treatment technology since 1998. Its technology is applied to the core chip set of digital TV's. In particular, LGE's digital tuner system on-chip (SoC) received the Presidential Prize in the 7th Superior Electronic Parts contest in 2002, which was organized by the Electronic Industries Association of Korea, and the 2002 Korea's Ten Innovative Technologies Prize (the only prize recipient in the division of electronics and information) that was organized by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Energy. Those awards proved the chip's superior features in enhancing picture quality.

LGE is set to additionally apply the XD Engine to all its future digital TV's to provide picture-perfect quality to customers and reinvigorate the digital TV market.

LGE noted that it came up with the XD engine chip and the XD Engine as its global technology brands to differentiate its digital TV technology from its competitors. Last year, the company launched the "XDRpro" in the Korean market.

The new digital TV's have intelligent, large, high-end, and multi-functional features. Likewise, for its major product lineup, LGE now offers premium digital TV's that have a large screen, a built-in digital tuner to receive digital broadcasts, and HDR, all in a single unit. Meantime, the the 60-inch PDP TV with speakers, which was also recently unveiled, is the first of its kind worldwide. It boasts of the finest picture and sound to awe the audience. The PDP TV, which is equipped with high-performance speakers on both sides, offers wider and livelier sounds than TVs with speakers at the bottom of the unit. Also, the new PDP TV, which is internally equipped with a digital tuner, can receive high-definition digital broadcasts without using a separate receiver, thus defining a new trend for PDP TV's.

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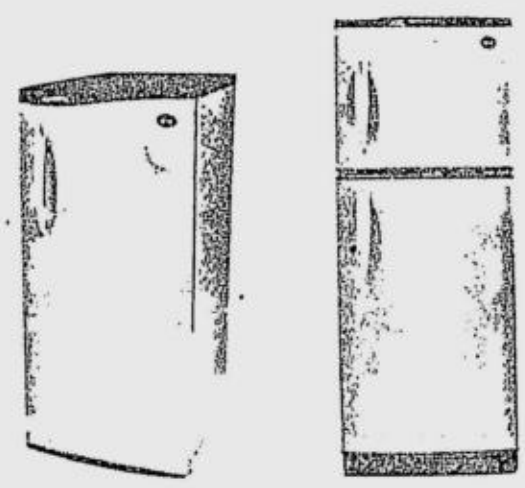

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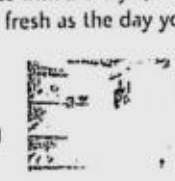
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Inspired by San

From page M1

Cutiongco's courses are divided into two programs: one is in enhancing the child's intellectual abilities and the other is boosting his or her social skills.

adjustment that she, as a parent, had to make.

"One is to give up some social obligations for trips to the doctor and therapist," said Cutiongco. "Second is to spend more time with her, given that raising Sandra has to be a concerted effort of the family and household members, as well. Early intervention requires the presence of both parents."

Cutiongco is known to be a doting tutor to her students and gives them lots of praises. This way, she said, they would have more confidence to study.

The classes that Cutiongco and Dynaminds began to offer this summer include socialization for toddlers, listening and speaking skills, speech improvement and confidence building, reading skills enhancement, and public speaking classes.

Regular one-on-one academic tutorials are offered every summer, which started this year.

Like her previous classes before giving birth to Sandra, Cutiongco's courses are divided into two programs: one is in enhancing the child's intellectual abilities and the other is boosting his or her social skills.

The two classes she had formulated are called the Daily Living Skills through Art and Crafts, and Functional Academics for Special Children.

The Functional Academics for Special Children includes occupational activities and experiences appropriate to the children who have learning problems. The activities and experiences are conceptualized to include the basic skills needed to develop their fine or tactile motor skills, visual skills, social interaction, and number skills.

On the other hand, the Daily Living Skills through Arts and Crafts is a program wherein the special children's

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Inspired by Sand

From page M1

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Say thank you to the one who wants you to sparkle.

Ha ... Mother's Day!

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Fear not the (future) mom-in-law

By Marlet D. Salazar

MOTHER-IN-LAW seems to be a dreadful word for wives- or husbands-to-be. There is an air of fear (or even terror) when faced by the fact that sooner or later one has to deal with this woman.

Fear not, moms-in-law are just like any other mothers out there. They have feelings, fears, and joys. It seems unfair for them to be stereotyped. They are individuals who have their own strengths and weaknesses. Perhaps, their only fault (if it can be considered as that) is that they love their children to pieces. Is there a mom who doesn't?

Experts may have professional explanations on dealing with in-laws. But what if you didn't get the chance to ask? It's in your hands and wit to get on the first phase.

Why treat meeting a future in-law like some kind of an Olympic game that you need to get a gold medal for? You're meeting a person here. You just have to be sincere.

Paving the way for friendship is one good start. Some people get uneasy when they feel they are being sized up. Let's turn the tables on you. Are you not sizing her up too?

How do you nurture a friendship with another person? You talk. There are times when you try to know her likes and dislikes. And you'll be surprised to find out you share something in common.

Try not to "over-please" her. In your pursuit to impress her, sometimes it gets annoying. Perhaps, it applies to all relationships. Be honest. Trying to do something you don't normally do, but the mom is so fascinated in doing, may not oftentimes yield favorable results. Don't be afraid to ask her. Don't be afraid to let her know that you have no idea what she is talking about. You can learn from her, in the same vein she would from you.

Keep communicating with her without the intercession of your partner. It shows that there is trust amongst you, your partner, and your mom-in-law. That could end up for the two of you conspiring on cooking up a surprise for your partner's birthday.

If, unfortunately, you start the relationship on the wrong foot, see how you can bridge the gap. There is no harm in trying to talk to her. Ask her what upsets her so you can both work it out.

Don't buy your way to her heart. It's all right to shower her with gifts if you are that kind of person. But, give only if you mean to.

In case you forget, if not for her, you don't have a partner to love right now and loved by him or her in return. It will not hurt to say "thank you" for that.

Perhaps the most important thing to keep in mind is not to see her as competition to your partner's affection and love.

The kind of love given to both of you is of different levels. Don't ever commit the mistake of asking your partner "Who do you love most?" Love for a parent and love for a partner are completely different things.

Moms-in-law should be seen as an extension of the love you can give to your own mother. It is like a gift that you get to have two mothers in your life.

Inspired ...

From page M3

daily living skills will be enhanced through a variety of creative arts and crafts projects including painting, children-created bulletin boards, puppet play, sewing and creative food experience.

Cutiongco sought the assistance of two Special Education (SpEd) teachers, both graduates of the University of the Philippines, who will run these programs.

Her dedication to help doesn't stop on her daughter. Dynaminds is currently giving assistance to a public school for special children in Project 3, Quezon City. The Batino Elementary School has a new curriculum for this school year that will cater mostly to kids with special needs.

Because of the attention Sandra needs right now, Cutiongco will be extending her knowledge on this area by personally supervising the teachers. Fortunately, one of them has expressed interest in taking up Masters in Special Education, "And she has all of my support," she said.

Although Cutiongco will be sidelined from teaching for a while to give her undivided attention to Sandra, it will not stop her from learning more about special children and their needs. And she is bent on offering more programs to benefit and help them.

"Since I am a teacher and a trainer, my daughter will be my priority student this time," Cutiongco said.

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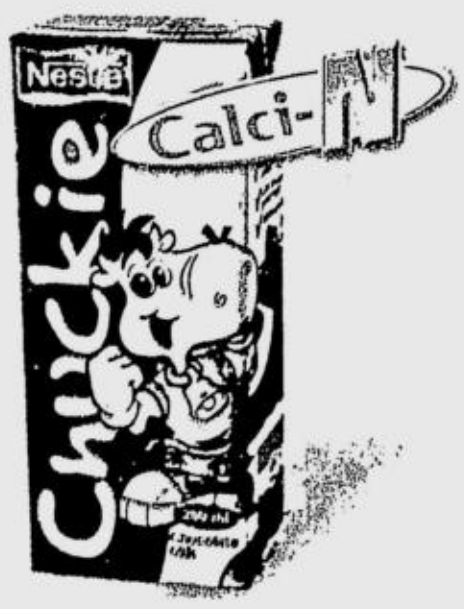
Mom, no matter how tall I grow, I will always look up to you.



The fun way to grow.

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Keep communicating with her without the intercession of your partner. It shows that there is trust amongst you, your partner, and your mom-in-law. That could end up for the two of you conspiring on cooking up a surprise for your partner's birthday.

If, unfortunately, you start the relationship on the wrong foot, see how you can bridge the gap. There is no harm in trying to talk to her. Ask her what upsets her so you can both work it out.

Don't buy your way to her heart. It's all right to shower her with gifts if you are that kind of person. But, give only if you mean to.

In case you forget, if not for her, you don't have a partner to love right now and loved by him or her in return. It will not hurt to say "thank you" for that.

Perhaps the most important thing to keep in mind is not to see her as competition to your partner's affection and love.

The kind of love given to both of you is of different levels. Don't ever commit the mistake of asking your partner "Who do you love most?" Love for a parent and love for a partner are completely different things.

Moms-in-law should be seen as an extension of the love you can give to your own mother. It is like a gift that you get to have two mothers in your life.

The fun way to grow.

Inspired ...

From page M3

daily living skills will be enhanced through a variety of creative arts and crafts projects including painting, children-created bulletin boards, puppet play, sewing and creative food experience.

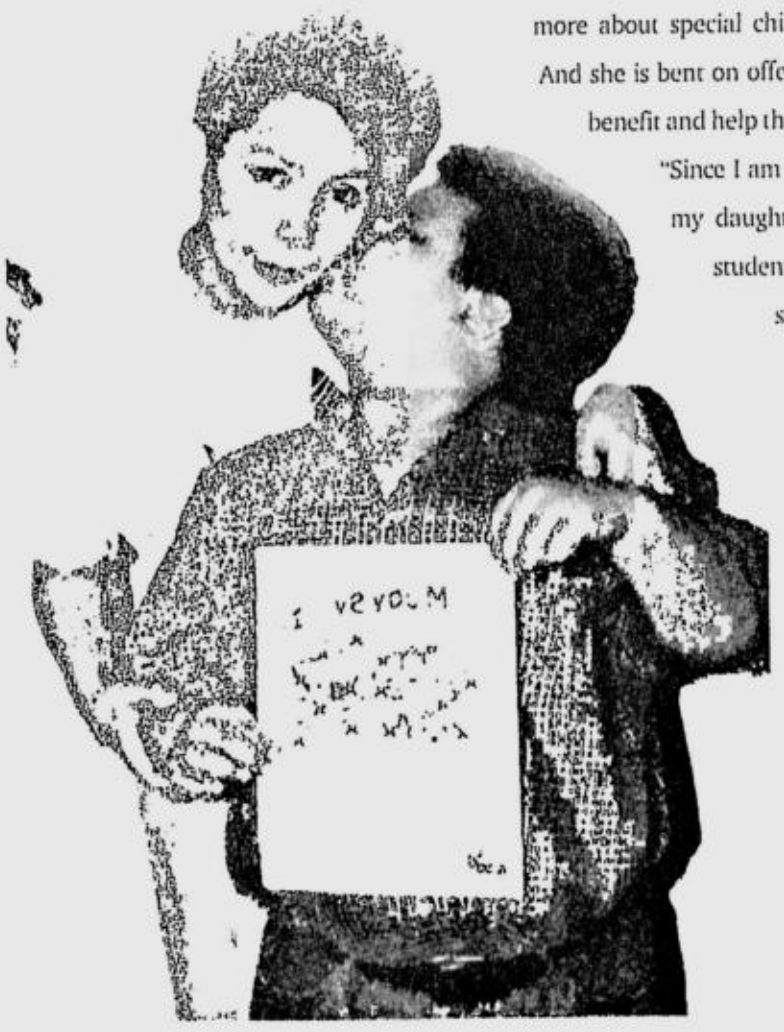
Cutiongco sought the assistance of two Special Education (SpEd) teachers, both graduates of the University of the Philippines, who will run these programs.

Her dedication to help doesn't stop on her daughter. Dynaminds is currently giving assistance to a public school for special children in Project 3, Quezon City. The Batino Elementary School has a new curriculum for this school year that will cater mostly to kids with special needs.

Because of the attention Sandra needs right now, Cutiongco will be extending her knowledge on this area by personally supervising the teachers. Fortunately, one of them has expressed interest in taking up Masters in Special Education. "And she has all of my support," she said.

Although Cutiongco will be sidelined from teaching for a while to give her undivided attention to Sandra, it will not stop her from learning more about special children and their needs. And she is bent on offering more programs to benefit and help them.

"Since I am a teacher and a trainer, my daughter will be my priority student this time," Cutiongco said.



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Dr. Rosanna Jover: The new Zonrox mom

HER face is very familiar especially to soap opera fanatics during the early 80s. As a cast member of channel 9's afternoon sensation Flor de Luna, Dr. Rosanna Jover is a thespian in the real sense of the word. Her acting experience precedes her even before she introduces herself to a dental patient. But not many people know that there is more to her than meets the eye.

She started modeling for TV commercials 10 years ago. Yet beyond modeling, Rosanna has been a dentist for 14 years now. Her clinic is located at Windsor Tower in Makati City where she sees clients from Mondays to Saturdays.

Pretty, petite and very amiable, one would never think this 36-year-old mother target shoots on the side. She goes target shooting at Fort Bonifacio and Camp Crame and is very proud of her pastime. "It's a very unusual sport for a woman like me. They wouldn't know that I could carry a gun. It's a release from distress. I know what I'm capable of doing. I can even defend myself," she said, without batting an eyelash. Not the stereotype woman, she knows what she wants and works hard for it. Moreover, Rosanna admits being a homemaker and a mother are her top priorities.

As the new Zonrox mom, Rosanna is a real user of the brand itself and is a firm believer in its stain removing and disinfecting abilities. She particularly likes the Regular variant. "I love the smell of Zonrox," she enthused.

She uses Zonrox Bleach on her white laundry, particularly her dentist's coat, the white clothes of her 1 ½-year-old son Jose Luis, white blankets and other beddings, among others. Zonrox Bleach is the only brand in the market that helps keep white laundry germ-free, stain-free and odor-free.

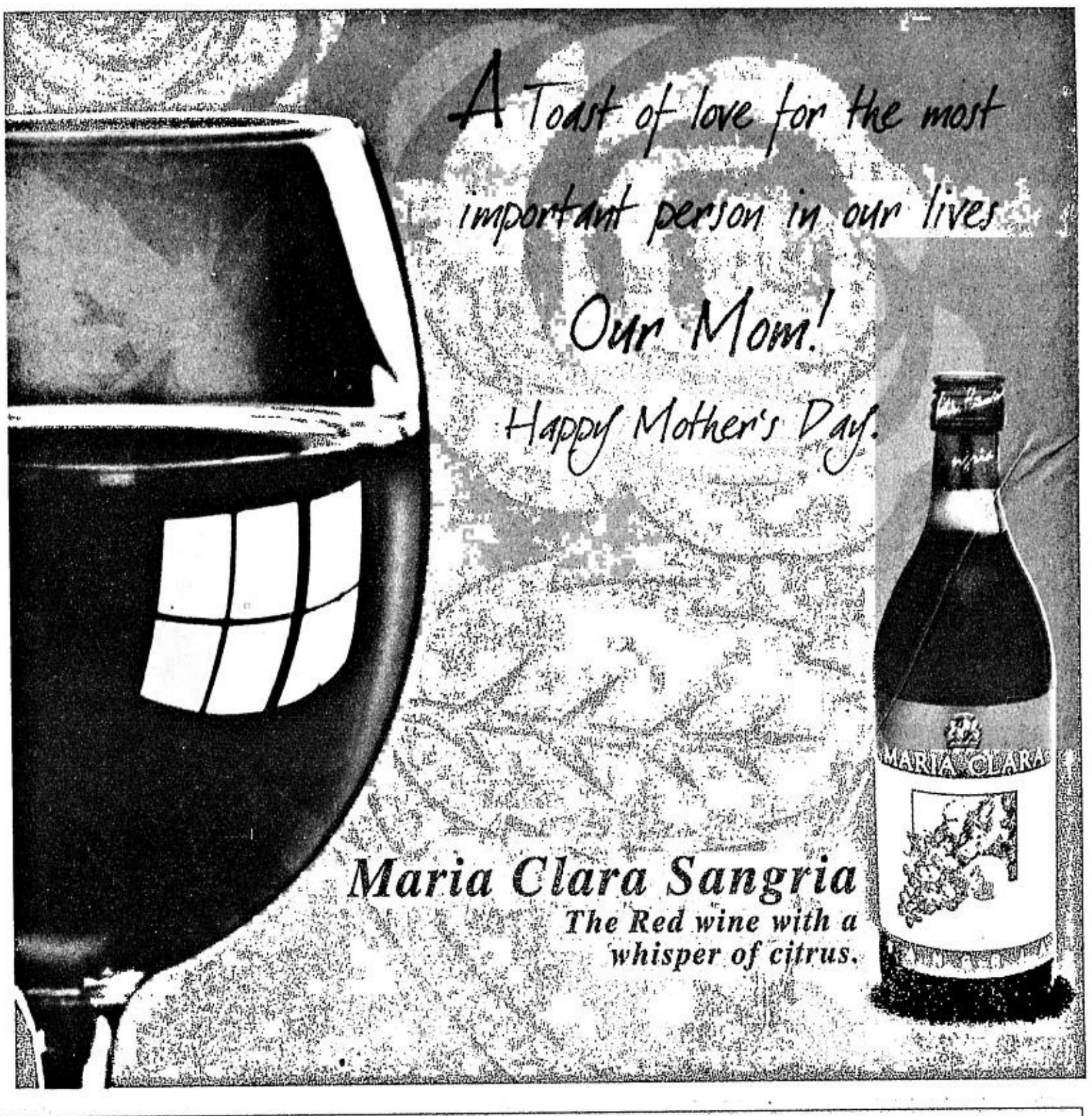
Due to its superior stain removing and disinfecting quality, Zonrox Bleach is the most trusted brand in the market today. Modern homemakers like Rosanna have relied heavily on Zonrox Bleach for many years and continue to do so up to now. Results-wise, Zonrox Bleach brings not just "ordinary white" in white laundry but a "Totalinis White".

When asked what product attributes of Zonrox she can relate to, she readily replied: "Cleanliness. I'm very particular there. Zonrox is reliable. You know it delivers. I can also! When I commit to something, I will do that; even with my patient, and especially with my family." Rosanna resembles the very qualities of a Zonrox mom to a tee!

Rosanna personifies the modern-day Zonrox mom: a go-getter, someone who values her family, a hands-on homemaker, a friend to her kid/s, a loving partner, goal-oriented and a responsible woman inside and out. More than the typical mom of yester years, a Zonrox mother is very versatile in her tasks, yet works hard to achiever her expected results.

The new 30-second TV commercial of Zonrox is now airing, with Rosanna playing mother to 6-year-old Anne Cruz as her daughter. The TV commercial highlights the product's attribute of eliminating the toughest stain plus odor and germs.

True enough, Jover has come a long way since her Flor de Luna days. Her quest to be a good wife and mother starts with her right choices in life and through using Zonrox Bleach to make her laundry and household germ-free and spritely clean all the time. Catch her now in the latest Zonrox Bleach commercial airing on TV.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special **PROJECT**
SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2004

wrinkles before happen

KNOWN as the company that revealed to women the secret to fight aging 1992, Avon now brings you the answer to every mother's not-so-secret wish: to keep on looking young and to banish wrinkles! Avon introduces a revolutionary skin care product called Anew Retroactive + Repair Cream.

Anew Retroactive + Repair Cream is an age reversal moisturizing treatment that slows down signs of aging and gives skin a super healthy, vibrant look. This breakthrough product also features Rejuvi-Cell Repair Technology, which has the "Wrinkle Radar" that actually seeks out and repair damaged cells before they lead to visible wrinkles. Anew Retroactive+ Repair Cream helps you stop wrinkles even before they happen!

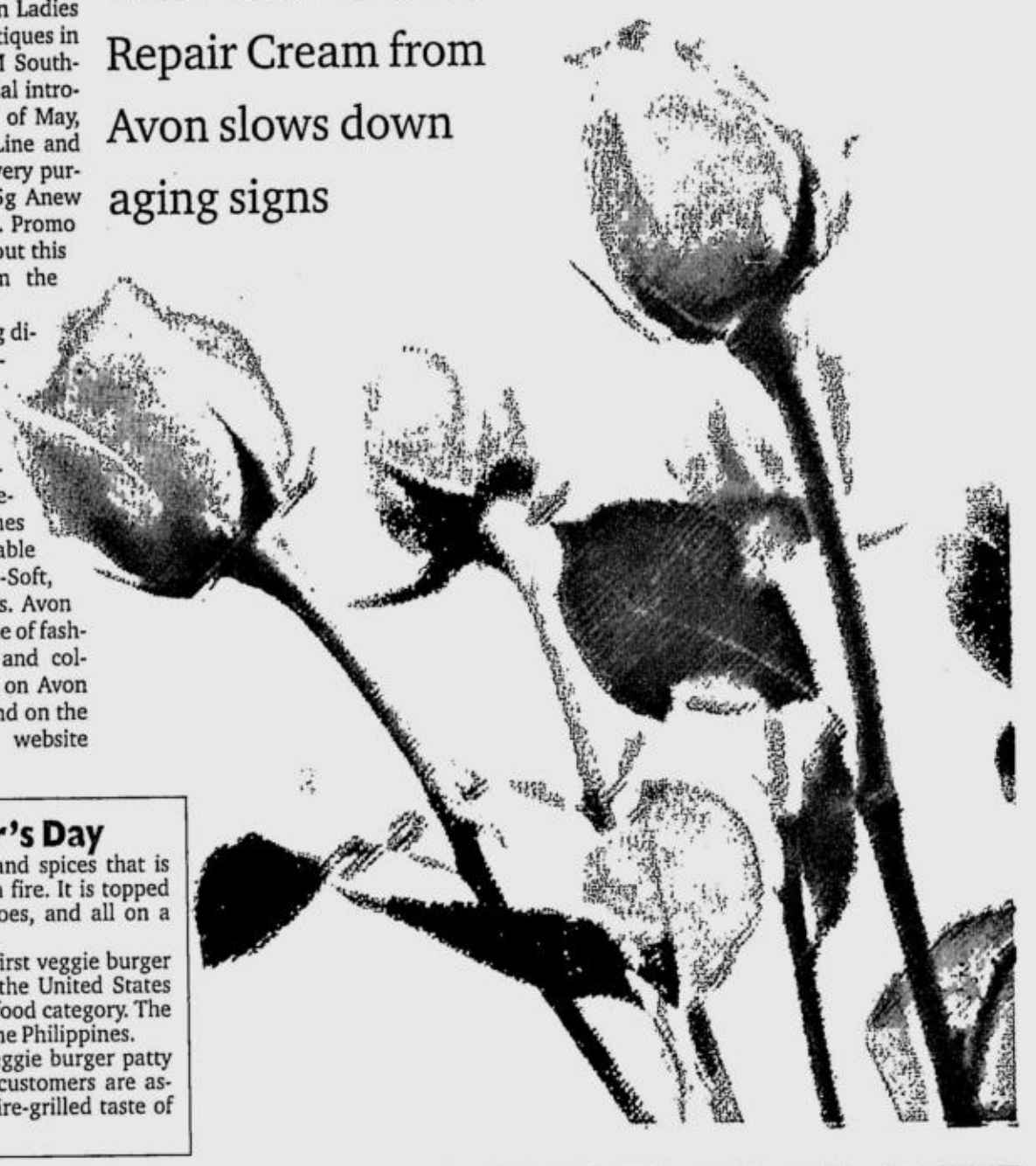
How does it work? While other skin care treatments work on the surface, Anew Retroactive+ Repair Cream goes deep down to the skin cells to actually reverse the signs of aging. Skin not only acts, but looks younger, healthier and more vibrant. To understand how this works, let us first remember that our skin's cells have the ability to talk to one another from the first day we were born. The younger the skin is, the more "talkative" the cells are to one another. As one gets older, however, skin cells begin to communicate less and less. This "communication gap" results in the key signs of aging —wrinkling, roughness, dryness, pigment spots and inflammation.

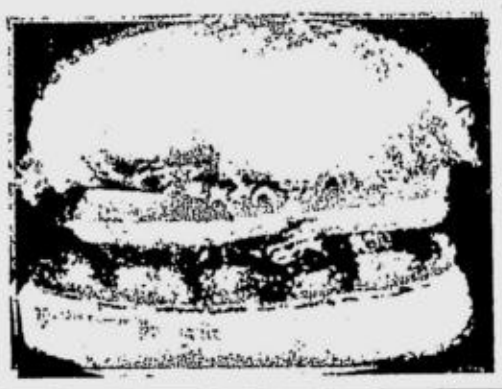
With Anew Retroactive+ Repair Cream's unique repairing ingredient, Rejuvi-Cell Repair not only makes cells act younger, it stimulates them to repair age damage at the molecular level before it shows and protects against future age damage. The results of this product are amazing! In just seven days, skin behaves younger, so skin looks younger. With continued use, skin will never show its true age again.

Anew Retroactive+ Repair Cream is available through the Avon Ladies nationwide and at Avon Boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and Ali Mall. As a special introductory offer for the month of May, Avon gives you free Anew Line and Wrinkle Corrector 30g for every purchase of one 30g or two 15g Anew Retroactive + Repair Cream. Promo is until May 15 only. Check out this amazing special offer from the Avon Ladies.

Avon is the world's leading direct seller of beauty and related products, with $5.3 billion in annual revenues. Avon markets to women in 136 countries through 3 million independent sales representatives. Avon product lines include such recognizable brands as Anew, Skin-So-Soft, Avon Color and Avon Basics. Avon also markets an extensive line of fashion jewelry, apparel, gifts and collectibles. More information on Avon and its products can be found on the company's award-winning website www.avon.com.

Anew Retroactive+ Repair Cream from Avon slows down aging signs





Yummy burger for mommy on Mother's Day

BURGER King's low-calorie, tasteful and healthy flame-grilled "Veggie Burger" is perfect must-have for moms on Mother's Day.

The new BK Veggie has received tremendous public acceptance since its national launch in the United States last year and is now creating waves in the local market.

This new sandwich treat features a veggie burger patty made out of a delicious blend of garden fresh vegetables, whole-grains and spices that is grilled over an open fire. It is topped with lettuce, tomatoes, and all on a sesame seed bun.

BK Veggie is the first veggie burger ever introduced in the United States in the national fast food category. The same holds true in the Philippines.

By grilling the veggie burger patty over an open fire, customers are assured of the fresh fire-grilled taste of Burger King.

Ilaw ng tahanan,
Liwanag ng bukas.

Dahil sa inyo,

nakikita namin ang kinabukasan.

Maraming salamat sa inyo,

at isang maligayang araw ng mga ina.

MERALCO *may liwanag ang buhay*

Don Henrico's for Mother's Day

DON HENRICO'S welcomes mothers and their families this Mother's Day. Known for flavor-packed pizzas, pastas and extra-large Buffalo Wings, Don Henrico's has four tempting dishes to delight moms, dad and kids!

The whole family can feast on four new specialties concocted by Don Henrico: Asian hot beef salad, beef and spinach pasta, Philly steak cheese pizza, and choco mousse dome cake.

Aside from these, moms get an extra treat. Moms who dine-in with their family on Mothers' Day get a chocolate truffle rose. As a bonus, Moms who order any of these four great-tasting dishes get a Don Henrico's drawstring bag free! Enjoy Mother's Day at any of Don Henrico's restaurants in Metro Manila and Cebu: Pedro Gil corner A. Mabini, Manila; Festival Supermall, Alabang; Glorietta 4 in Makati; Brick Road at the Sta, Lucia East Grand Mall; Tomas Morato or Banawe Street or West Avenue in Quezon City; or at the Entertainment Center of Ayala Center Cebu. When in Baguio, visit Don Henrico's along Session Road and at the Lower Ground Floor of SM City Baguio.

Anmum supports safe motherhood at Buntis Congress

MORE bundles of joy are on their way to happy homes this year judging by the successful turnout at the recently concluded Buntis Congress held at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong. The gathering, attended by thousands of pregnant mothers from Metro Manila alone, was focused on the theme of safe motherhood. This annual congress is spearheaded by the Midwives' Foundation of the Philippines, DOH-NCR and DZMM with Anmum as one of the major sponsors. Prominent leaders also showed their support like Senator Manny Villar, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Joey Lina, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Dinky Soliman, Mandaluyong First Lady Cora Abalos and Mandaluyong Vice Mayor Jesse Cruz.

An active participant of Buntis Congress since its inception in 2003, Anmum believes in the project's objective of keeping pregnant mothers in the country informed about safe motherhood and proper maternal care. Anmum is known for being high in Folate and EFA, which helps in brain development for the baby. For its part, Anmum offered free ultrasound and product tasting for the attendees this year. A lucky mommy participant was also chosen as "Anmum Mom of the Day" and was awarded a bouquet of flowers and gift pack from Anmum. The four "Anmum Mom of the Day" finalists were also given gift packs full of New Zealand Milk products.

Midwives' Foundation of the Philippines president Cleo Elmedolan said that this year's theme is about taking care of the pregnant mother from the beginning of her conception until she gives birth. "As mother carries a child in her womb, she needs proper nutrition, medical check-ups, information on proper maternal and child care, and all the help and support she can get from her loved ones and doctors," says Elmedolan.

"This event has been successful so far because of the encouraging support we get from our sponsors. One of our private sponsors, Anmum, has been with us for two straight years and we are glad that they share our vision for maternal care," Elmedolan further states.

Buntis Congress is held every year through the support of national and local governments, NGOs, media and corporate entities like Anmum. The organizers also spearhead the midwifery week on October, seminars on family planning, and annual conferences.

Wala ka nang hahanapin pa, sa kalingang dulot niya.

Happy Mother's Day mula sa Pediatrica,
taga-gawa ng Ceelin, Disudrin,
Growee, Nutrilin at Naprex.

PEDIATRICA', INC.
THE PEDIATRIC SPECIALIST

A lasting gift for mom

MOTHER'S Day traces back to ancient Greece where ancient Greece honored the eternal mother of god, Rehea. In China, Lucky Bamboo is thought to bring good fortune and good health. This unique plant is very elegant and extremely easy to grow. Lucky Bamboo has also been established by valid'research as a good type of indoor plant that can thrive indoors without sunlight and through low maintenance and care.

"I love having green plants at home but they require so much care, for which I hardly get time. So, when my daughter told me that lucky bamboos would not require much maintenance, and that I would have to change the water just once a week, I love them! If they also brings me prosperity and good health, better for me," states Elisa, mother of 3.

If you are looking for lasting gift for your mother, Lucky Bamboo are available at all branches of Rustan Flowershop, PriceMart, Metro Gaisano, Cebu. Flowerland, Cebu: For inquiries, call 2-7492617 or text at 09175323299.

A Titania-rrific Mother's Day treat

MOTHER'S Day is set aside to celebrate those wonderful women who are all too often taken for granted. Titania would like to say "thank you" to all those moms for all they do 365 days of the year!

On Mother's Day, why don't you give your mom a break and help her relax. Here are some tips on how to maximize your day together:

· Call and thank the special women in your life. Sisters, aunts, grandmothers, best friends and mentors who have influenced your life all deserve some recognition on this day.

· Start a family tradition. Putting up a "mother's day foot spa" for mom will surely ring a bell! Reinvent your living room into a local day foot spa to receive her. Pick out fresh blooming flowers from a nearby flower shop and put them in a vase. Accentuate the flowers by wrapping the vase in japanese paper tied with a matching ribbon and place it on a side table right beside the chair where mom will sit for the spa. Mom will surely remember this special day you've shared together, enjoying the blooms all midday long. Take out new curtains and change linens, too.

· Prepare old basins, preferably those with light colors, and fill one up with 5 liters of warm water and 5 tablespoon of Titania Foot Bath. Make sure to have your towel (color-coordinated with the basin to make an impression), Titania Foot Deo Soap, Titania's double foot file, and Softening lotion.

· Soak your feet in the solution for 10 to 20 minutes before filing away your calluses using the double-sided foot file. Afterwards, cut toenails straight across with nailcutter leaving less than 1/8-inch white space. After concentrating on your feet, you may scrub your legs and soles with Titania Foot Deo Soap, rinse thoroughly and then moisturize with softening lotion.

· Complete the relaxing mood by playing mom's favorite CD this time (although the songs tortures your eardrums!) remember, it's her day, not yours!

· While giving her a feet massage, ask mom to sign up in your Mother's Journal and to list down all the things she loves about being a mom. You may also use the journal to make her remember her favorite memories about you as a child (ask her to jot it down, too!). something that you've done to make her laugh, tribulations of being a mother and anything else that comes to her mind. Each Mother's Day, take the time to continue the journal.

· Ask mom to talk about your grandmother. This is a good opportunity to explain where her mother used to live, what occupation she had in the past, what she was like as a parent and much more.

· Finally, give her a personal, yet unconventional, mother's day greeting thru a self-made "spa gift certificate" with an annotation saying that you'd still give her a free foot spa even after mother's day, whenever she feels exhausted! After all, she deserves to smile!

· Of course, don't forget to take pictures! This is for purposes of creating a family keepsake box. It would also be nice to make an imprint of your mom's feet. Include these mementos in a box, together with the journal and continue to add to the box year after year.

Titania from Germany is exclusively distributed by Filstar Distributors Corporation and is available at the following stores: Landmark, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Crossings Department Stores, Shopwise Libis, Puregold and selected Watsons and PCX branches nationwide.

While giving her a feet massage, ask mom to sign up in your Mother's Journal and to list down all the things she loves about being a mom. You may also use the journal to make her remember her favorite memories about you as a child

SMART GOLD
Simply The Gold Life.

Make parenting more enjoyable with SMART Moms.

SMART MOMS

Receive information on how you can be a good all-around parent.

Whatever child-parent situation you find yourself in, there's a SMART Moms info service you can turn to – whether you're a dad or a mom. Topics vary from tips on pregnancy, to IQ-building for your children at different stages of growth, first aid, emergency numbers, a listing of music and sports centers, and more.

Get a chance to win great prizes in the SMARTest Challenge Quiz Promo. Send the correct answers to daily questions to earn points. The more points you earn, the greater your chances of winning:

- A pampering gift pack in daily draws.
- Spa Treatment at Nurture Tropical Spa & Café in weekly draws.
- A Microsoft X-BOX game console in monthly draws.
- A 73.66-cm. Hyundai Flat Screen TV in the grand draw.

To join, text **MA PROMO JOIN <name> <address> <birthday> <sex> to 353.**

Also available to SMART Buddy and Addict Mobile subscribers.

Find out all about the joys of parenthood. Access SMART Moms today.

KEYWORD	TOPIC
MA1	Baby Names
MA2	Fun and Recreation
MA3	Party On
MA4	Shops/Centers
MA5	Smart Tips
MA6	Health Numbers
MA7	Emergency Numbers
MA8	Child Care Corner
MA9	Hobby & Play

Send all keywords to 353.

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TIPS FOR MOMS First Aid (Burns)

BURNS Flush burned area abundantly with lots of cold water to clean the burn. Don't use ice or ice water. Ice may be applied so long as it is wrapped in cloth. Avoid ointments, greases and baking soda.

PARENTING CHILD CARE

Connecting with your teens is essential. Spend time together. Don't confuse your teen's interest in friends with a lack of interest in you. Most teens want to spend time with their parents.

Text MA to 353

Mommy Academy

SMART Simply Amazing!

Promo is from April 3 to May 31, 2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0761, Series of 2004.

Subscribe to a SMART Gold Consumable or Regular Plan and access SMART MOMS today.

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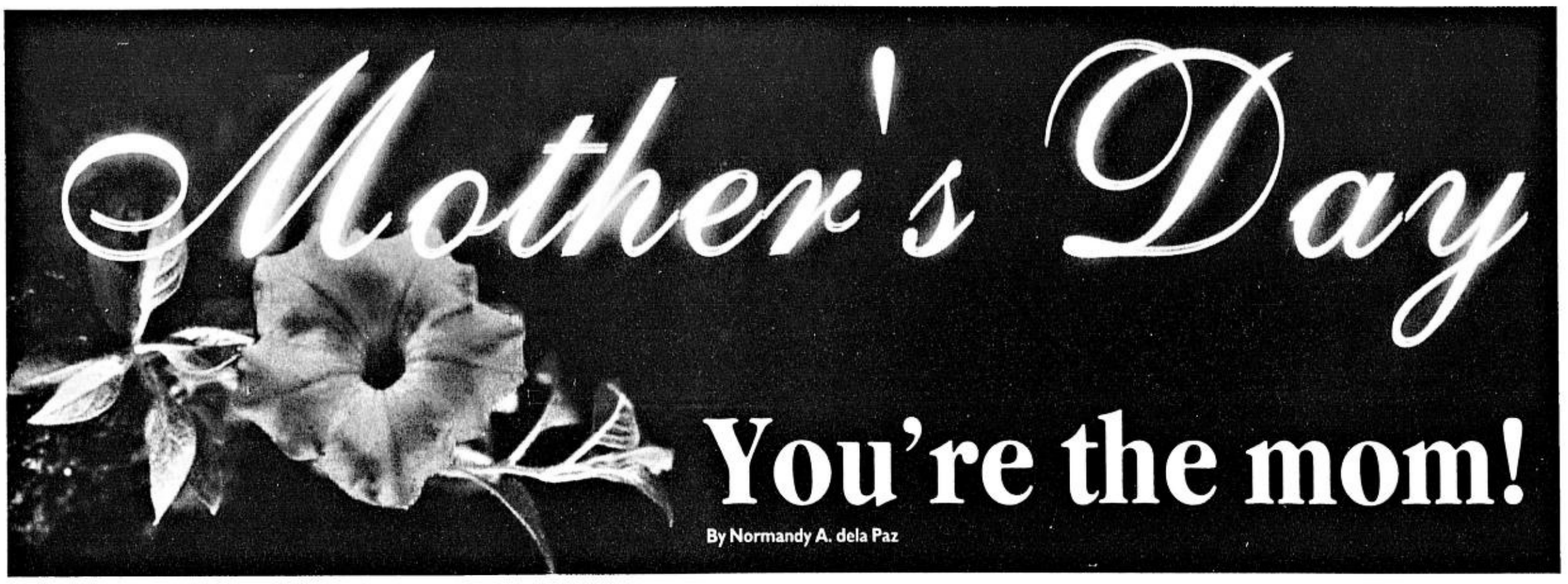


You're the mom!

By Normandy A. dela Paz

FORGET the flowers, gifts and chocolates. Your mom already received a thousand of these things when your dad was still courting her. This Mother's Day why not make it a little different? Let your mom take a backseat from all the motherly chores and you be the mom for a day. Giving her nice gifts will make you "the man", but don't you think you would rather be "the mom"? After all, there is no person in this world more brave, strong, diligent and sometimes fierce than our mothers. And being "the mom" gives you the right to be called "the greatest", and I'm not pertaining to Muhammad Ali. But then again, I guess Muhammad Ali is called "the greatest" because he fought and talked like an overprotective mother duking it out with the school bully. So float like a butterfly and sting like a bee, and do your MOTHER chores:

M - Make breakfast, lunch and dinner: To be a mom is to cook. However, if you can't cook there's always take out or delivery, but that would mean shelling out a lot especially if your family were a party of 6 or more. That means 6 mouths (or more) to feed times 3 meals equals you being flat broke. Do the math and go heat up the stove and whip something up, after all there's no harm in trying. The worst you can do is blow the house into orbit or serve them carbonized grub. If you can't take the heat, mom's always there to help you.

O - Offer to clean the refrigerator: The drudgery of defrosting the icebox always leaves mom with a hot temper. Who wouldn't be? There's ice melting on the floor, wet socks or underwear drying at the back of the ref, the stench of three-month-old stored food that now play host to spores, molds, and fungi. How ironic that a machine built to make things cool often makes our moms' head sizzle. Tell her to take five, as you volunteer to clean the ref. Cleaning the fridge here don't mean you and your freeloading friends raiding the food in it. If the chore gets you iced, mom's always there to help you.

T - Take care of the groceries: It doesn't have to mean you have to pay for the groceries especially if you're a bum. Just take the grocery list from your mom and the money of course, and tell her that you will do the grocery shopping. With all that money, temptations will cling to you like you were Velcro. Friends will invite you to go to the mall to watch a movie, or play network games at a computer shop. But be steadfast, for no other being can unleash such wrath like a mother being swindled of her grocery money. But if you can't carry the load, mom's always there to help you.

H - Help with the dishes: It's better to just help with cleaning the dishes than to offer to wash them yourself. This is because just like being swindled of her grocery money, no other being can unleash such wrath like a mother finding out her fine China were broken due to stupidity. Besides, it's the perfect time to have that heart-to-heart talk with your mom, like showing her your new heart tattoo inscribed with the word "MOM" - this is if you want to see your mom's fine China shattering on your head. You will have no problem with making the dishes squeaky clean and lemony fresh since mom's already there to help you.

E - Enroll her in a fun summer activity: This can be a class on snorkeling, cooking sessions, arts and crafts seminars, or adventurous activities. Adventurous activities here vary from mom to mom. One mom may define adventure as going spelunking, parasailing, bungee jumping or sky diving, while another may define adventure as watching Eat Bulaga's "Laban O Bawi" while cross-stitching. So choose where she will get her kicks. Get that hammer and start pounding on your piggy bank, since this one will require money. Forget buying that Piolo Pascual CD and Jolina Doll Collector's Edition you were saving up for, believe me you'll do yourself a favor. But if you really don't have the dough, mom's always there to help you.

R - Remember: A mother never forgets, so you shouldn't too. This is the most important task of all - to remember. Remember the times your mom took care of you when you were down with the measles, mumps, chicken pox, or even a broken heart. How she put up with your tantrums when other people are looking, patiently waiting until the both of you got home from the mall so that she can open a can of whoopass on you. You are already a gift to your mom, so there is no need to buy her expensive presents, just remember to greet and thank her on Mother's Day (a cheapskate's excuse).

This Mother's Day, the least, nay, the most you can do is to greet and thank her, which shows you remember and appreciate the things she has done for you. And since it is the most you can do for her, forget about the first five tasks, chances are, it will be your mom who would end up doing them since mom's always there to help you. To all the mothers, moms-to-be, as well as the single fathers or fathers who bravely took the role of being the homemaker, thank you. We remember.

Mother's Day at the SM Supermalls

IT'S Mom's Day today, and there's no better place to celebrate than the SM Supermalls.

Buy that special gift from mom at the SM Department Store and mall boutiques, treat her to a special lunch or dinner at her favorite resto, watch a movie and bond with her. There are great ways of celebrating that day with her.

Treat her to a Me and My Mom Make Over, and pamper her with a makeover and hand massage at Body Shop at the malls. Then, have a souvenir photo with her by HP. Just present a single receipt worth P1,000 and have a free photo taken on May 5 to 12 at SM City North Edsa, SM Southmall, SM Megamall, SM City Marilao, SM City Bacoor and SM City Fairview.

It's also the best time to touch base, and moms can also call their loved ones for free with every purchase of PLDT Budget and Vibe cards. This will be from May 7 to 9 at SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM City Bacoor, SM City Pampanga, SM City Baguio, SM City Marilao, SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo and SM City Davao.

Let mom take on that domestic goddess title and learn the coolest recipes with her in the Me and My Mom Cooking Demo series. Sponsored by Hunts, this will showcase Roxanne Arcilla at SM Megamall today. Featured recipes are Easy Bake Pork and Beans with Tuna, Italian Chicken Stew, Pork Balls with Egg Drop Sauce, and Beef Curry with Mushroom.

Chef Soc Santos, on the other hand goes Italian and Mexican today at SM Southmall. Moms can learn Chili Con Carne ala Hunts, Mini Tuna Tacos, Zesty Chicken Wing, and Seafoof Pasta.

Chef Sharee Roque, meanwhile will demonstrate how to make hearty meals for families. Very much going the comfort food way, recipes include Beans and Franks, Calamari in Red Wine and Tomato Sauce, Crunchy Salad and Ziti with Tomato Pesto Sauce on Mother's Day at SM City North Edsa.

Capping the festivities is the Safeguard Papaya Search for Super Mom, a photo contest for moms at all SM Supermalls. Mom can join by washing their faces and then having their photos, which will serve as their entries to the search taken. A grand prize of P10,000 and a year's supply of Safeguard Papaya is at stake.

The Mother's Day celebration goes on at Storyland, the country's most exciting indoor theme park. Moms and kids can have fun at the park's game booths by simply presenting their Ride All You Can Wrist Tags. Games for moms and kids include Bead It, where beads are strung to earn points; Freeze It, where you can have mom's face molded in resin and mounted; Mold Your Hand on the Plate; and the creative Jazz Up Your Shirt.

The reality show craze goes to Storyland as roving cameras all over show families have fun at the park and interviews with moms and kids which will be shown on a giant screen. All activities will take place at Storyland Southmall and SM City Fairview.

Celebrate Mother's Day at the SM Supermalls.

Life's little miracles

MICHAEL Pahati is a 33-year-old father, married with children, and works hard to support his family financially. He works in the streets of Makati as a house-to-house vendor of vinegar. He considers this a decent job. Although it's not exactly how he envisioned his life to be, he still works doubly hard for his family.

He lives in a small shanty in Makati together with his wife and four children. For the past two years, this has been his main source of income. He has already established loyal customers and according to them, Michael sells the best tasting vinegar in Makati.

Michael states that his work is hard, and if his body is weak, he will easily get sick, especially when the weather changes abruptly. Along with taking care of his health, Clusivol is his protection from sickness.

Clusivol contains vitamins and minerals that help strengthen and defend the body from sickness.

For Michael, it is better to invest a small amount in multivitamins rather than get sick and be hospitalized.

This Mother's Day, working moms should follow Michael's example. Good health most definitely equates to bigger wealth. Clusivol supports working moms in achieving a healthier and wealthier outlook in life.

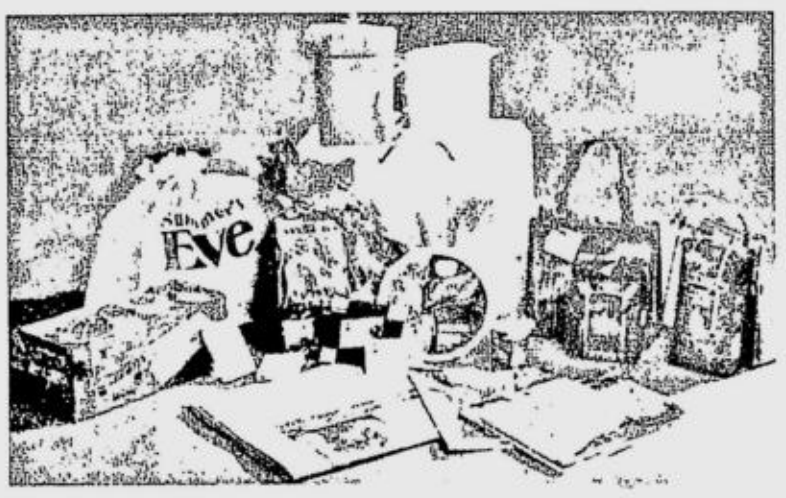
A chance to win a free gift for mom

AS WE pay tribute to the most important woman in our lives, SM Supermalls is giving you the chance to win a free gift for mom... as we celebrate Mother's Day. Shop at any SM Supermalls from May 1 to 15 for a chance to win a JVC Digital Cybercam. Win this exciting JVC Digital Cyber Camera to capture precious moments with mom. A minimum single receipt purchase of P500 (cash or charge) from participating mall establishments (food and non-food) or at the SM Department Store entitles the customer to one raffle coupon. A minimum single receipt purchase of P1,000 at the SM Appliance Center also entitles the customer to one raffle coupon. Deadline for submission of entries is until May 15 at the designated promo booth inside the mall. Draw date is on May 17. Hurry! A total of 17 JVC Digital Cybercam are to be raffled off.

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR AN ORGANIZED WOMAN

Caha de Oro Closet and Drawers now comes with wheels made of heavy-duty nylon caster so you can move them anytime. They also now come with the added front-lock feature to keep it stationary in their spot. The closet serves as clothes organizers with six free hangers, V-cut sliding, and a heavy-duty nylon zipper with a zinc padlock to safeguard one's belongings. The frame can support the weight of whatever you put inside and it's also easy to clean. The Caha de Oro Closet and Drawers is a must for the organized mom, so be sure to give her one on Mother's Day.

East West Bank showers surprise gifts to our lives' biggest investor



HER initial deposit is love. Each day she enjoys the surging interest of anticipation without fail. For 9 months, she faithfully invests her time and affection in a bank called "motherhood" - a bank that never folds down and offers infinite possibilities for every woman. Our safe conception is the "return" on her investments and seeing us grow into the best that we can be is her greatest profit.

And even if we are strong enough to stand on our own, her loyalty as an investor never falters. This is why our moms will always occupy a special spot in our hearts no matter how old we are and no matter how distant this world has tossed us far from her wings.

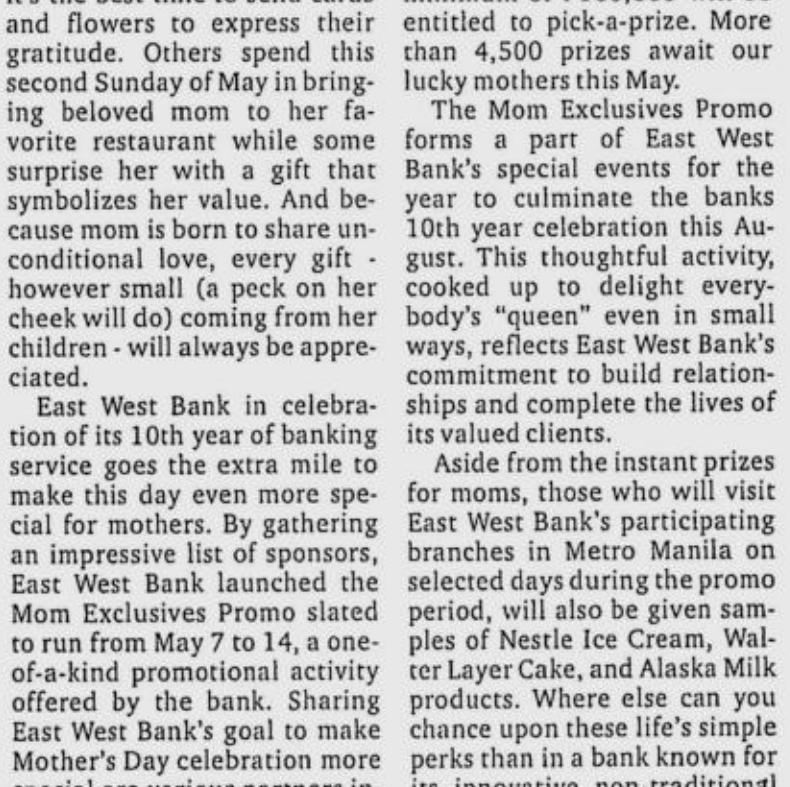
This is the reason why persons of all ages and status celebrate Mother's Day. For many, it's the best time to send cards and flowers to express their gratitude. Others spend this second Sunday of May in bringing beloved mom to her favorite restaurant while some surprise her with a gift that symbolizes her value. And because mom is born to share unconditional love, every gift - however small (a peck on her cheek will do) coming from her children - will always be appreciated.

East West Bank in celebration of its 10th year of banking service goes the extra mile to make this day even more special for mothers. By gathering an impressive list of sponsors, East West Bank launched the Mom Exclusives Promo slated to run from May 7 to 14, a one-of-a-kind promotional activity offered by the bank. Sharing East West Bank's goal to make Mother's Day celebration more special are various partners including Nestle Ice Cream (Nestle's special ice cream cake); Alaska (fresh milk, evaporated and condensed milk); Creative Bakers Company Inc (maker of Walter Layer Cake - Pandan and Chocolate variants); publications The Philippine Star and Mega Magazine (Me Magazine and My Home Magazine); Bloomingfields (maker of feminine hygiene product Summer's Eve); Medserve (ER 5000 Health Card); Tupperware; and Amarich Coffee. These companies generously offer their products as instant prizes for mothers who will open a new account at East West Bank.

During the promo period, mothers who will open an account with an initial deposit of P10,000 in a savings or current account or $200 for dollar savings account will take home complimentary gifts from sponsor companies. On top of this, mothers who open with a minimum of P100,000 will be entitled to pick-a-prize. More than 4,500 prizes await our lucky mothers this May.

The Mom Exclusives Promo forms a part of East West Bank's special events for the year to culminate the banks 10th year celebration this August. This thoughtful activity, cooked up to delight everybody's "queen" even in small ways, reflects East West Bank's commitment to build relationships and complete the lives of its valued clients.

Aside from the instant prizes for moms, those who will visit East West Bank's participating branches in Metro Manila on selected days during the promo period, will also be given samples of Nestle Ice Cream, Walter Layer Cake, and Alaska Milk products. Where else can you chance upon these life's simple perks than in a bank known for its innovative non-traditional banking solutions. See posters for details about East West Bank's Mom Exclusives Promo.



You're just 5 days away from owning your dream home with East West Bank HomeSuiteLoan.
It gets even better with added features you've always wanted! Fast approval, low interest rate, choice of payment terms, easy payment and bigger loan value.

And, join the raffle for a chance to win a 73.66cm (29") Flat Screen TV or other home appliances! From Feb. 25 to July 31, 2004, all approved applications are entitled to one raffle number for every ₱100,000 loan.**
Available at participating branches in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Valenzuela and Batangas.

So mark this day! At East West Bank, you can own a home and have a chance to win a cool prize.

Call BACCESS (822-2377) or visit East West Bank Personalized Banking Centers for more details.

HomeSuiteLoan
Good options. Better decisions.

EASTWESTBANK
A Decade of
Building Relationships Completing Lives.
www.eastwestbanker.com
Main Office: 6795 Ayala Ave., corner Herrera St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

* Conditional approval on financial capacity based on submitted documents
**Minimum loan amount of P400,000. Only loans applied for and approved during the promo period are entitled to the raffle
+ Excluding construction loans

See posters and flyers for promo details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0704 Series of 2004

EAST WEST BANK TIE-UP PROMO

As part of its 10th anniversary surprises, East West Bank launches the Mom Exclusives Promo, a one-week promotional activity cooked up to give moms more reasons to smile in celebration of Mother's Day. The Mom Exclusives Promo is ongoing until May 14 at East West Bank participating Personalized Banking Centers (PBCs) in Metro Manila. More than 4,500 prizes from sponsors await mothers who will open an account at East West Bank for a minimum initial deposit of P10,000 in a savings or current account or $200 for dollar savings account. On top of this, mothers who open with a minimum of P100,000 will be entitled to pick a prize. There will also be sampling activities from sponsors. The Mom Exclusives Promo is sponsored by Nestle Ice Cream, Alaska, Creative Bakers Company Inc, Mega Magazines, Bloomingfields, Medserv, Tupperware, and Amarich. Shown standing (from left) are Matthew L. Onglengco, VP and marketing head, Lolita Asuncion, AVP and area marketing head, EWB and Emmanuel L. Abesamis, AVP and area marketing head, East West Bank. Seated, from left, are Ramille Pacantara, supervisor, Walter Layer Cake, Teody Suarez, executive vice president, East West Bank, Cergen Go, promotions consultant, Walter Layer Cake.

Festival Supermall salutes way cool moms

If there is only one measure that easily makes any mom cool, it is this: When she gives all her best to be the best mom for her kids.

DECLARING who's cool and who's not when it comes to moms isn't exactly kind as we realize that moms are simply different from each other. But if there is only one measure that easily makes any mom cool, it is this: When she gives all her best to be the best mom for her kids.

Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang salutes these moms for their confidence, simplicity, practicality and daring. Each day, they overcome the limitations imposed by society, wear confidence up in their sleeves, and redefine beauty and glam that transforms them into way cool moms.

Confident plus-size moms

Many plus-size moms are literally coming out of the closet to express themselves through fashion and accessories. They are not afraid to wear the latest fashion trends, whether these come in full color or show some skin.

Meet the Tubby moms.

For over three years now, Tubby has helped many plus-size women, moms included, to think proudly of themselves in terms of the clothes they wear. It continuously breaks the barriers for big women, who are now more daring in wearing colors, to go beyond the basic cuts and experiment with an array of what used to be taboo, prints.

Whereas typical weighty moms used to be content with their "official" getup of loose and monochromatic polo and pants or a completely black ensemble, the confident Tubby moms are secure with how they look. They can carry any cut or design and match them with trendy accessories without looking cheap.

With more love and acceptance, plus-size moms shape a bolder attitude in fashion that go well with their hefty figure. To them, this always spells fun at Tubby!

For more information about Tubby, please call 771-0641.

TUBBY free. Big moms can confidently express themselves through the latest fashion trends, including this casual chic-y black and white floral dress.

Versatile moms go comfy

Many active and responsible moms who pursue a busy career or steer a business while managing a household have proven to be successful in these, sometimes, conflicting fields. They are inspirations to moms who fulfill their life-long dreams without leaving their kids simply to yaya's care.

These moms take the Lhasa lifestyle.

For the past three years, Lhasa has made the lives of career "wo-moms" easier with its ready-to-wear lines of working clothes that are also stylish and even in basic cuts are like the wearer - flexible and modern.

Lhasa's fabrics, made mostly of cotton stretch and done in basic cuts and a more loose fit, are ideal for moms who commute, ride the MRT, take the cab, talk to hordes of people, but still manage to look fresh each time.

Focusing more on substance and less on the frills, Lhasa's designs has made it even possible for moms to share clothes with their teenage daughters. Bonding like this makes moms feel like they're just older sisters.

Comfortable working clothes with a twist let Lhasa moms shine over competition.

For more information about Lhasa, please call 917-6236470.

Future perfect moms

Moms who assume leadership roles, playing hard at work yet still finding time to play harder outside the business, has paved the way for other moms to look at personal investing, whether in stocks, business, or clothes, as a way to solidify their future, not only of her family but hers as well.

Thus, flower power has a more vibrant meaning for TFC moms.

Offering exclusively designed clothes, from basic casuals to the hip and trendy, from work sensible to sporty, TFC, short for The Flower Collection, has made it possible for moms to "invest" in clothes that last beyond seasons and trends. TFC's basic yet stylish "flower collections" are good investment pieces for their quality, durability, timelessness of style, and reasonable prices.

Figure conscious moms can try TFC styles that emphasize their assets and hide problem areas. For moms with slim upper bodies (arms and shoulders) yet are concerned with their tummies, TFC's blousy tops with a hemband help hide the tummy, while its structured office blouses that are not very fitted around the waist enhances a slimmer silhouette.

For more information about The Flower Collection, please call 635-2393.

Daring glam moms

It is typical of moms to go for the tried-and-tested or settle for the safe side. But many moms nowadays have become more adventurous, realizing that they have been missing a lot all along. Now, the daring side of glam moms is taking over.

They are the Beauty Bar moms, unrestricted by domestic roles.

Since 1999, Beauty Bar has brought into the local scene the trendiest cosmetics and personal care products that ultimately make women feel good about themselves. Known worldwide as niche brands, the products continue to transform women, whether 13 or 40, especially the moms who just want to look and feel good in the middle of rearing and caregiving.

What makes the "discoveries" even more interesting for moms is that they can share these with their daughters at the tester bars of Beauty Bar outlets. There, they can feel the products firsthand and try on any makeup they like.

While bonding with their daughters, Beauty Bar's glam moms have also accepted the fact that allowing their kids to explore for themselves may be the best legacy they could ever give them.

For more information about Beauty Bar, please call 850-4025.

HOME Beauty. Do-it-yourself moms will love the Pretika Microdermabrasion Therapy set from Beauty Bar.

Practical moms look great

When it comes to budgeting, there are no better accountants than moms who live through each day constantly juggling the household funds. They, even on a limited income, are able to meet their families' needs without neglecting their own.

Meet the practical Bare Skin moms.

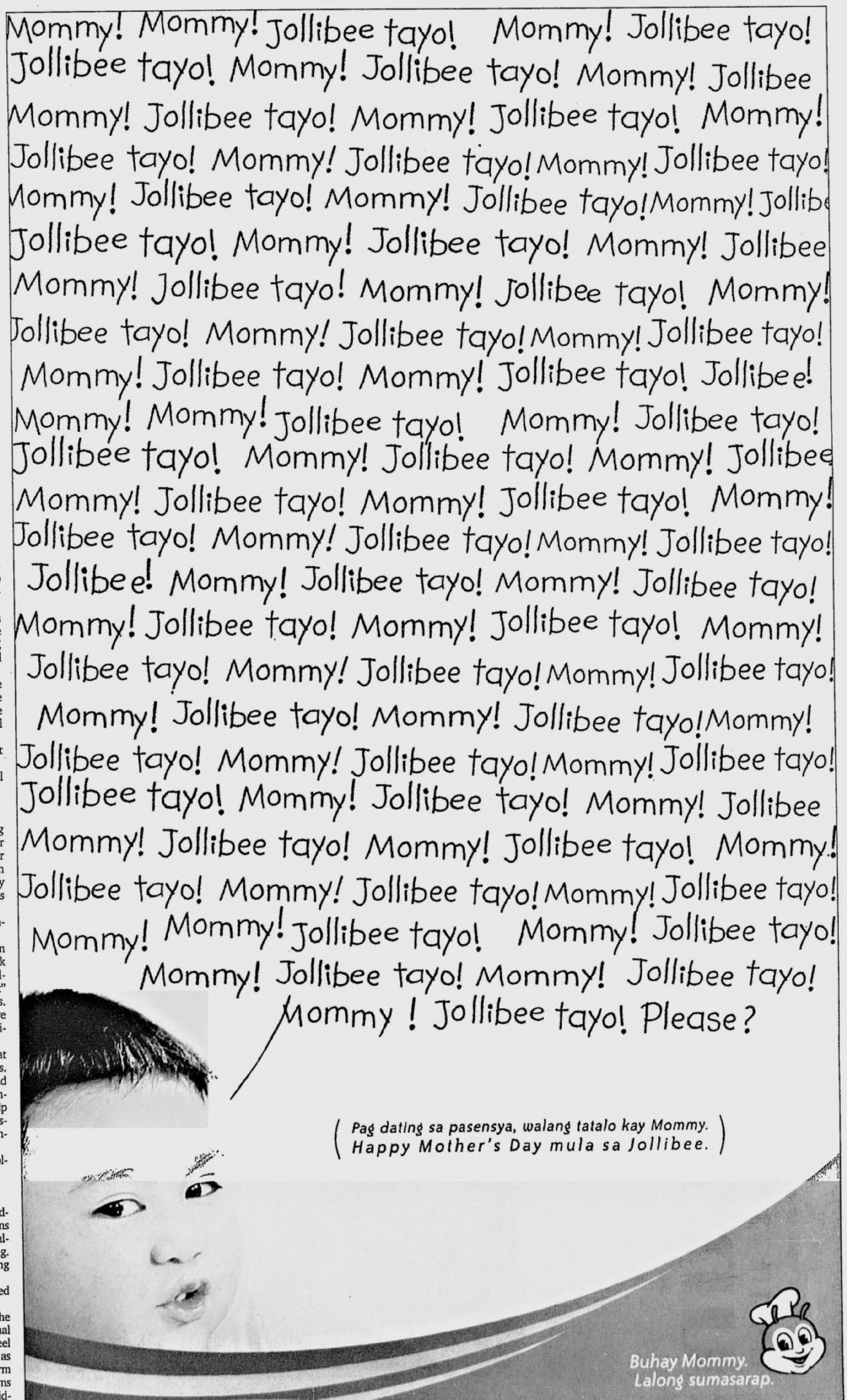
These guilt-free moms take good care of themselves using body and bath products they can bring at home and use during their lull time. Since its introduction late last year, Bare Skin Body Essentials has given moms, who are the ultimate do-it-yourselfers, the chance to use affordable and all-natural spa products.

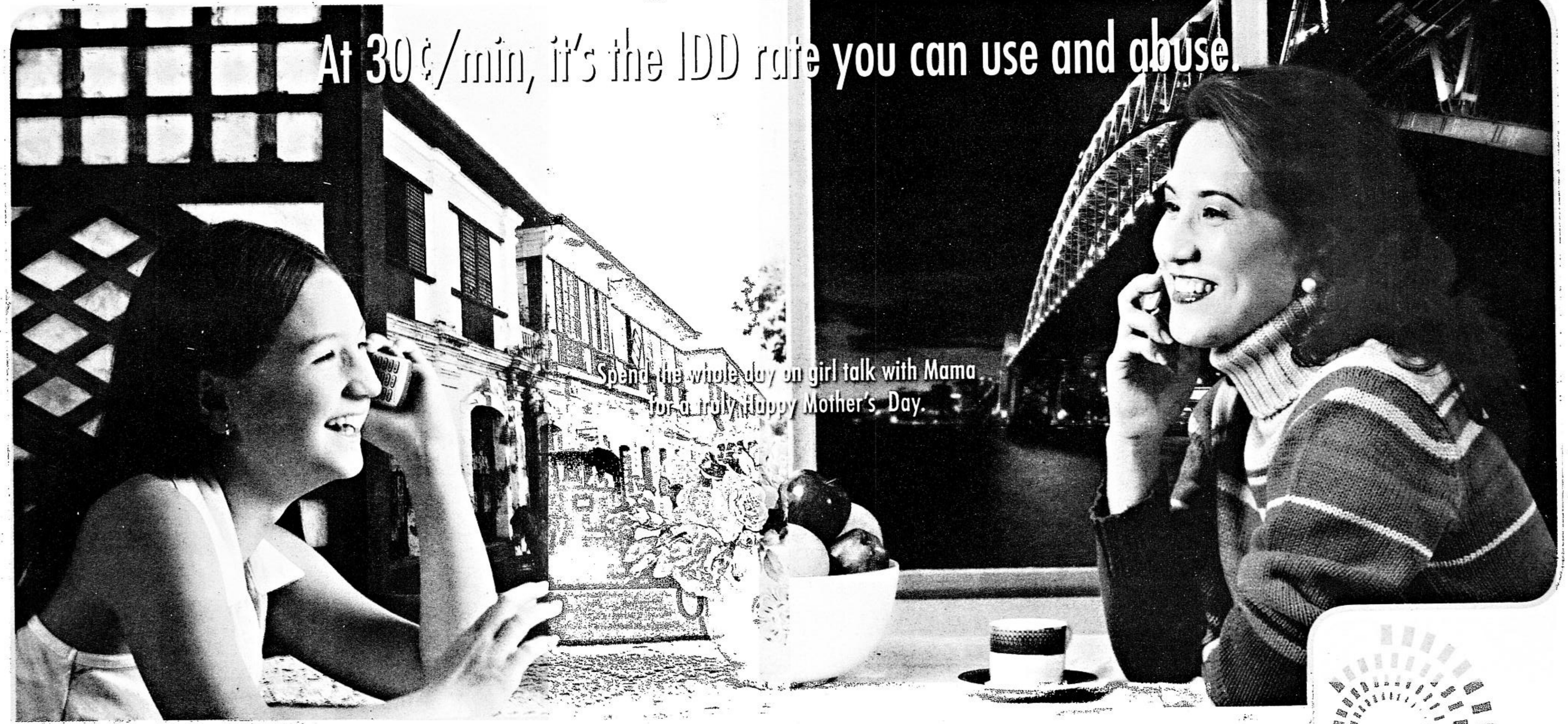
With the luxury of a low-priced spa treatment right in the comforts of their homes, Bare Skin moms can indeed look even better each day.

For more information about Bare Skin, please call 630-2263.

Tubby, Lhasa, The Flower Collection, Beauty Bar, and Bare Skin Body Essentials are located at Festival Supermall at Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. Festival Supermall is the premier shopping, dining, amusement and entertainment destination in Southern Metro Manila with over 550 stores, restaurants, specialty and service shops to choose from. For more information, call Customer Service at 850-3514 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

DARE to bare. These all-natural scrub (milk & oatmeal, fruit & sugar, honey seaweed, and milk & salt) and butter (milk, preparations are some of the bestsellers at Bare Skin Body Essentials.





30¢ IDD TO OVER 200 COUNTRIES.

With Sun Cellular's 30¢ per minute IDD rate, you can make everyday Mother's Day. It's the IDD rate that allows you to share everything that happens to you to the most important woman in your life - wherever in the world she may be. That's 25% cheaper than the regular IDD rates!

SUN CELLULAR

Everything Important is Under the Sun

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2004
Special PROJECT

Mother's Day

Generation to generation of fashion

IN CELEBRATION of Mother's Day, Rustan's Department Store's pillar of ladies' fashion, Criselda, releases a story of style that revolves around legacy, elegance and true family values.

Criselda's has built a loyal following that is composed of society's finest ladies. This exclusive circle has enjoyed the fabric, themes, and cuts of Criselda's designs for years and years.

Now, Criselda goes to full force to carry refreshing pieces that are aimed towards today's strong-ish set of women. It acknowledges the urbane woman's impeccable taste that has been passed on to them. This is Criselda's tribute to many of today's women who are constantly maturing in terms of sophistication and sense of style.

The label's designer, Criselda R. Lontok, once again strikes gold as she creates pieces that reflect the values of the family tradition, influence, respect and importance. Her thrust is highlights the bond of mother and daughter that is then deeply entrenched in their spirit.

Criselda taps the feminine appeal of pink chiffon, whose designs are inspired from the great Vivienne Tam, for its elegant evening wear. A tri-color ensemble, appropriately coined as pastel garden, provides a cool comfort for those smart casual engagements. Moon River, Criselda's evening gown collection, rides on classic romanticism that are wardrobe must-haves.

Criselda's concept of fashion projects a striking elegance that is passed on from family to family, from generation to generation.

Criselda is exclusively available at the ladies' Floor of Rustan's Department Store.

ON NATALIE: An A-line dress in a combination of pastel colors - yellow, pink, lilac and pistachio complimented with tiny flower embroidery
On Menchu: A round neck blouse in a combination of pastel colors complimented by tiny flower embroidery and pistachio pants to match
On Rica: A sheath dress with bateau neckline in a combination of pastel colors and complimented by tiny flower embroidery

ON MENCHU: A spaghetti strapped pink chiffon with black scalloped lace and beads as embellishment
On Rica: A halter top with biased standing collar that ends in a bow at he back with black scalloped lace as embellishments and biased long skirt to match
On Little Natalie: A Light pink empire dress with ecru lace and embellishment on bias skirt

ON MENCHU: A bateau neck with flowing sleeves and ruching on the sides plus wide chiffon pants to match
On Rica: A halter blouson top in chiffon with bandon hips ending in a bow and a biased skirt to match
On little Natalie: An iced pink party dress in chiffon in round neck with lace overlay on skirt

Fashion an extraordinary bond.

Mothers and daughters are truly inseparable, especially when discovering romantic styles at Rustan's. Mom sparkles in an evening dress by Elie Tahari, jewelry by Rustan's Silver Vault and timepiece by Cartier. The young daughter takes after her mother in Rustanette with jewelry by Rustan's Silver Vault.

Rustan's

A salute to womanhood

PREMIERE lifestyle hub Rustan's Department Store, tips its hat in respect to womanhood as a whole as the metro celebrates feminine strength, substance and lifestyle this Mother's Day.

Rustan's has been the prime destination of women for over 50 years for it has consistently outdone itself year after year in bringing in the latest in fashion, the most elegant of décor, the most captivating scents and the most glitzy accessories and jewelry.

As the lifestyle of women shifts and swings from season to season, Rustan's offers the best international brands in fashion such as Sinequanone, Amichi, Narcisso Rodriguez and Karen Kane to meet their varying fashion requirements. The most exclusive jewelry names that include Cartier, Mimoto, Tiffany & Co., Montblanc, Chopard, Vacheron Constantin and Franck Mueller are also present to give that elegant and luxe aura fit for their fine stature.

Rustan's private labels, Criselda, Jill and Positive Signal, join the brands under the Rustan's Dress Salon, provide fabulous collections at par with imported labels in terms of design and quality.

Motherhood is not just about glitz and fashion. Rustan's, being the premiere lifestyle house, boosts its arsenal of items for her. The crystals and decors of Rustan's Home are perfect gift suggestions that would definitely match their class and taste. The kids also share the limelight as Rustan's brings in adorable infant and children's wear.

With a soft pink hue as its theme, Rustan's treats mothers and all women to delightful experience this Mother's Day. visit Rustan's and discover a world that fills the heart of woman and defines the character of a mother.

As the lifestyle of women shifts and swings from season to season, Rustan's offers the best international brands in fashion

MOM: Anna Sui, Silvervault

Heroes Build
Nations.
Mothers
Build Heroes.

MOM: Criselda, Silvervault
Daughter: Rustanette dress and shoes, Majorica pearls

MOM: Muchacha dress, Lady Rustan shoes, Silvervault
Daughter: Cacharel pants and top, Silvervault, Jam shoes

MOM: Faconnable pants and top, Lady Rustan shoes, Cartier watch, Silvervault (earings and rings), Longchamp
Daughter: Cacharel top and pants, Rustanette shoes

Happy Mother's Day.

Teodora DDB
Mothers For Peace And Nation Building

Come and join a Muslim and Christian Mothers' Festival on May 30, 2004 at the PICC Plenary Hall, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. It's a whole day family affair! (8:00-5:00 p.m.) There will also be separate interactive programs for the fathers and the youth.

Celebrate!

MOTHER'S DAY

AT SM SUPERMALLS

As we pay tribute to the most important woman in our lives, SM Supermalls is giving us more reasons to celebrate Mother's Day this year. What better way to express our love and affection than to treat her, pamper her at the mall. Treat MOM to dinner or pamper her for a day as she shops for her favorite stuff! The possibilities are endless as she enjoys having a fun-filled day more than flowers can say!

Bring MOM to any of the SM Supermalls and surprise her more for some exciting activities prepared to fascinate her. Me and My Mom Make-Over to make her feel beautiful, Me and My Mom Cooking Demo to make her feel appreciated, Me and My Mom Photo Opportunity and even the chance to make her a SuperMOM via Safeguard Papaya's Search for SuperMOM!

Me and My Mom list of activities:

** Me and Mom Make-Over*

It's time to make our mothers feel special. Time to pamper her with things she does not normally do. This Mother's Day, SM Supermalls in cooperation with Body Shop will treat moms to free make overs and hand massages.

The following malls will have modules outside the store to accommodate more customers. The rest will have a corner inside the Body Shop store.

** Me and My Mom Cooking Demo*

Wouldn't it be nice to spend the day with your mom concocting delicious dishes? That's one sure thing with Hunt's Homemade Easy Recipes. To join moms in this special day, Hunt's will be holding, Home Made Easy Cooking with Me and My Mom at SM Malls!. To make the event more exciting to the mothers and their kids, they will also be having mascot apperances and games. Prizes and surprises await the participants. Hunt's will also be conducting sampling and selling activities at the activity area on the day of the event.

Carnation, together with renowned Chef Fern Aracama, goes to the mall for a series of cooking demos. On May 9, expect the most delicious aroma to emanate simultaneously from SM North, SM Fairview, and Megamall. It is on this day when Chef Fern together with other featured chefs hit the malls to teach mommies some delightful yet easy to prepare dishes From Chef Fern, moms can learn how to make extra special dishes with Carnation: desserts that are creamier and sauces that are richer. And no other team can cook it better than Carnation and Chef Fern. Between the cooking milk and the chef are recipes for dishes that are anything but ordinary. So come to SM, learn a dish or two and even get to taste some irresistible concoctions when Chef Fern starts whipping things up in the mall with his one and only cooking milk. Para mas masarap, Carnation dapat!.

** Me and My Mom Photo-Opportunity*

Filipinos love taking pictures of themselves and their family members. It is actually part of our tradition to have photos everytime we have family celebrations.

For Mother's Day, HP will be having a product display of their photo printer and camera and free photo opportunity for moms and their kids.

** PLDT free Call to Mom*

PLDT will hold a free call event with every purchase of any PLDT pre-paid cards from May 7-9 in several SM malls.

** Safeguard Papaya Search for Super Mom*

A Safeguard Papaya Pang Bida Diva Center will stay in one mall for one week. We will have four teams doing the rounds to complete the 17 malls. For those who wish to join the Search, show proof of purchase for bundle packs / any 3 Safeguard or BUY in the booth. Participants will be asked to wash their face in the booth, and will then have their photos taken. Their pictures will serve as their entry to the Search.

Every week, One (1) mom is chosen among all picture entries. For the last day, ten (10) semi-finalists (chosen from the week-long entries) will be judged according to picture and mock TVC testimonial. Each winner will represent a specific mall. Semifinalists will win gift packs and P 1,000.00. The Grand Prize winner across all SM malls will win P 10,000.00 and one year supply of Safeguard Papaya.

A Grand Finals event will be held in SM Megamall where all the semi-finalists will be invited. There will be a variety show with a celebrity guesting and the announcement of the Grand Prize winner. Below is the schedule and areas for the Safeguard booth:

MEDIA COVERAGE

As part of our tie-up with GMA 7 and their Mother's Day Special Celebration, SM Supermalls will be acknowledged as sponsor for their Best Mom awards. Entitlements will run from May 3-7.

"How Bout My Place" a show aired on Channel 9 will cover a Hunt's Cooking Demo at SM Fairview on May 9. ***

With so many disease-causing germs especially abundant this summer, as a loving and caring mom, it is important for you that your family uses a germicidal soap.

But on the other hand, you want a papaya soap for yourself. With Safeguard's biggest variant launch ever, the one soap that your family has trusted for generations for its superior skin germ protection has recognized mom's personal needs -- With the NEW SAFEGUARD PAPAYA, it gives you and your family the superior skin germ protection you need in the papaya variant you want - 2 in 1!

Because NEW SAFEGUARD PAPAYA leaves a protective defense wall against skin germs, and now it has papaya extracts, with NEW SAFEGUARD PAPAYA, the "Care that you need and the protection that you trust is now available in one soap - Introducing New Safeguard Papaya!"

As a treat for moms, this month of Mother's Day, Safeguard Papaya would be touring SM Malls to award SuperMoms who trust Safeguard with lots of exciting prizes and giveaways which include - Free Take-home Pictures, towels, huge discounts and featuring the Coolest Summer Watch for your Kids for only PhP30.00!!!

Hurry! Visit the Safeguard Papaya Pang-Bida Diva Center in all SM Supermalls at the following dates:

April 27 - May 3
SM City Fairview, SM South Mall,
SM City Baguio, SM City Cebu
May 4 - 10
SM City North Edsa, SM City Bacoor,
SM City Pampanga, SM City Davao
May 11 - 17
SM Megamall, SM Bicutan, SM City Marilao,
SM City Cagayan de Oro
May 18 - 24
SM City Manila, SM Sucat, SM City Lucena,
SM City Iloilo
May 25 - May 31
SM City Sta. Mesa

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Celebrate!

AT SM SUPERMALLS

As ... tribute to the most important woman in our liv... SM Supermalls is giving us more ...easons to ...elebrate Mother's Day this ... Wha... ...ay to ...expres... our love ...nd affe...tio... ...reat her ...pampe... he ...he mall. ...MOM ...in pamper her fo... da... she shop... her ...as po... chance ...an afc...d

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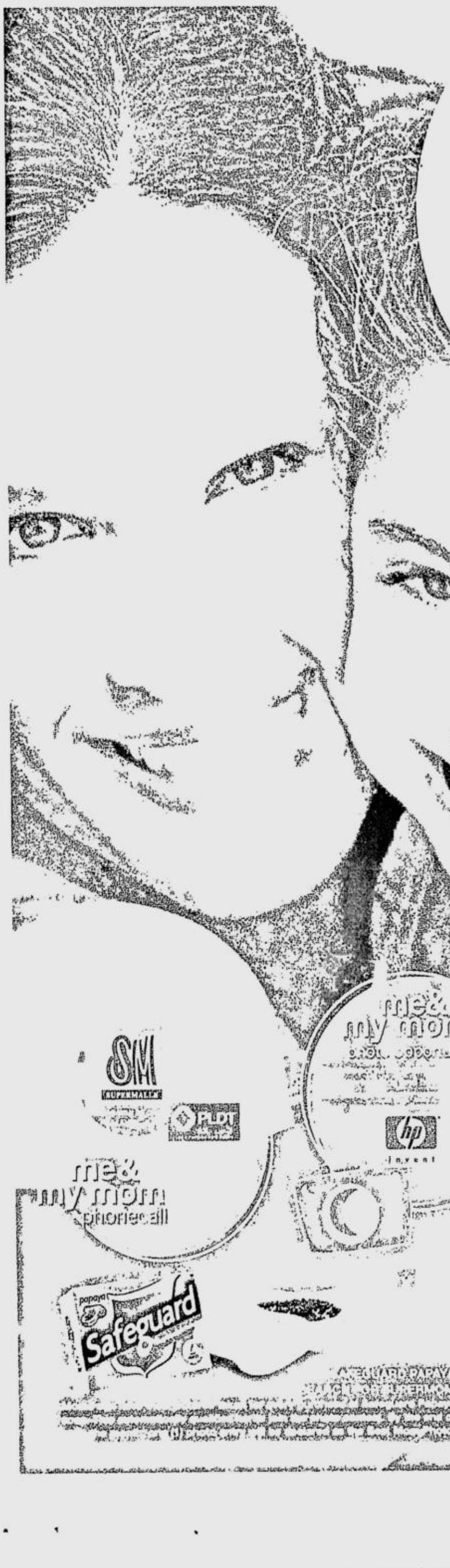

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MEDIA COVERAGE

As part of our tie-up with GMA 7 and their Mother's Day Special Celebration, SM Supermalls will be acknowledged as sponsor for their Best Mom awards. Entitlements will run from May 3-7.

"How Bout My Place" a show aired on Channel 9 will cover a Hunt's Cooking Demo at SM Fairview on May 9.

---

ith so many disease-causing germs especially abundant this summer, as a loving and caring mom, it is important for you that your family uses a germicidal soap.

But on the other hand, you want a papaya soap for yourself. With Safeguard's biggest variant launch ever, the one soap that your family has trusted for generations for its superior skin germ protection has recognized mom's personal needs -- With the NEW SAFEGUARD PAPAYA, it gives you and your family the superior skin germ protection you need in the papaya variant you want - 2 in 1!

Safeguard

SM SUPERMALLS

papaya Safeguard

Because NEW SAFEGUARD PAPAYA leaves ... protective defense wall against skin germs, and now it has papaya extracts, with NEW SAFEGUARD PAPAYA, the "Care that you need and the protection that you trust is now available in one soap Introducing New Safeguard Papaya!"

As a treat for moms, this month of Mother's Day, Safeguard Papaya would be touring SM Malls to award SuperMoms who trust Safeguard with lots of exciting prizes and giveaways which include Free Take-home Pictures, towels, huge discounts and featuring the Coolest Summer Watch for your Kids for only PhP30.00!!!

Hurry! Visit the Safeguard Papaya Pang-Bida Diva Center in all SM Supermalls at the following dates:

Apri... M...
SM City Fairview, SM South Mall,
SM City Baguio, SM City Cebu

SM City North Edsa, SM City Bacoor,
SM City Pampanga, SM City Davao
La...
SM Megamall, SM Bicutan, SM City Marilao,
SM City Cagayan de Oro

SM City Manila, SM Sucat, SM City Lucena,
SM City Iloilo

SM City Sta. Mesa

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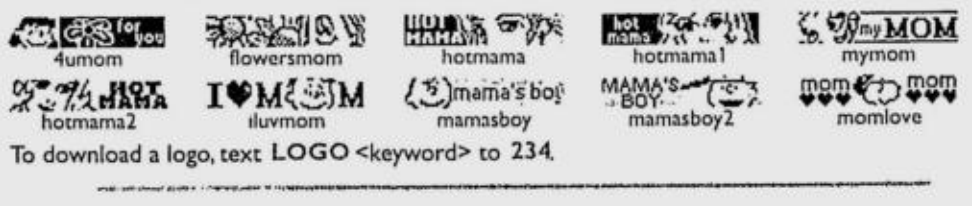

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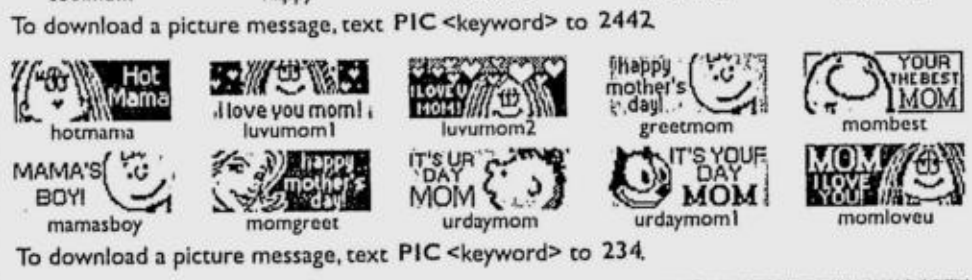

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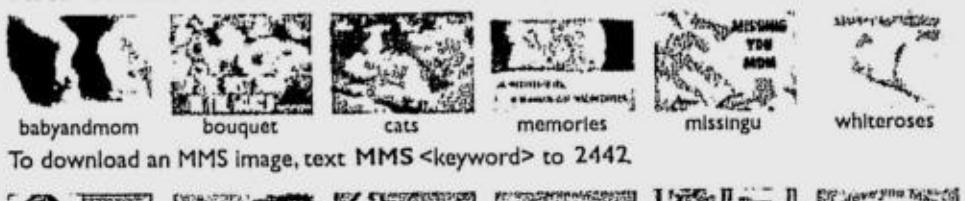
MMS WALLPAPERS



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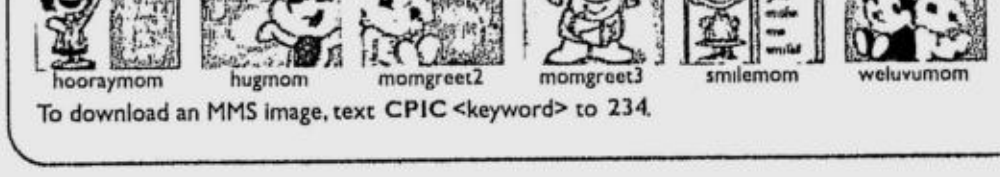

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music

Your access to all music!

Surprise your mom with these songs.

RINGTONE

Song Title	Artist	Keyword
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The Gift	Piolo Pascual	TheGift
This is the Moment	Erik Santos / Martin Nievera	ThisIsDMoment
The Promise	Martin Nievera	ThePromise
Forever	Martin Nievera	Forever
Paano Kita Pasasalamatan	Sarah Geronimo	PaanoKita
Overjoyed	Stevie Wonder	Overjoyed
Fallin	Teri Desario	Fallin
Be My Lady	Martin Nievera	BeMyLady
Misty Glass	Pido with Take one	MistyGlass
Friend of Mine	Odette Quesada	FriendOfMine
Rainbow	South Border	Rainbow
The Way You Look At Me	Christian Bautista	DaWayuLook
What Matters Most	Kenny Loggins	WatMatersMost
Love Is All That Matters	Eric Carmen	LoveIsAll

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friends

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Tell everyone how proud you are of mom.

Text 7WAYS to 777.

Discover special ways you can show mom how much she means to you.

7WAYS 777

HERE'S AN EXTRA TREAT FOR MOM!

Visit any SMART SHOCKWAVE site in any SM Mall and enjoy a FREE Pocket Radio for every purchase of a SMART Buddy Nokia 3315, Nokia 3100, or Sony Ericsson T320 phonekit.

Promo Period: May 8 to 14, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2242, Series of 2004

It's not just about greeting mom...

It's about showing her how much we care.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Each text message costs P2.50. Each download costs P15.00. For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111; send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation); e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph or visit our website at www.smart.com.ph.

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Mother's Day

What I will do today

The woman with all the time and the son in a hurry now share a couch for Manny

UNLIKE many other office workers, Sunday is not a rest day for me.

Working for a newspaper publishing company, which obviously prints newspapers everyday, employees in the editorial sections enjoy only a day off from work in a week. Often, they have to work Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

I would often remark to my "normal" friends, who can't seem to understand my frequent absences from their nightly gimmicks, that even if the world was about to end, we would still be behind our workstations earnestly putting to bed the next day's newspaper like there was no tomorrow.

My mother, all of 76 years now, at first couldn't understand the long hours I put in at work. She even used to call me everyday at the office, wondering why I didn't come home yesterday, or the day before that, or the day after this one. My "normal" friends used to joke that if I ever came home, my mother would mistake me for a burglar and slap me twice with her umbrella—once for not knowing it was me, and again for not telling her I was me. When I did actually come home, I could only manage a mumble about how hungry or dead tired I was, and after exchanging five minutes of pleasantries, I would be snoring in my bed with my office clothes still on.

But she never told me my job sucked. She didn't prod me to be like my older brothers who went abroad and now earn dollars. She didn't force me to get married and start working on her 18th and 19th grandchildren. Though I didn't tell her I loved my job, she knew I was happy doing what I did for a living. And she was always the one explaining to our relatives why I couldn't come to the rare clan reunion, and defending my choice of earning my keep over updating myself with the distant kin.

My life had been going on like this for a good part of the 11 years I worked for the paper. Gradually, my body learned to adjust to the rigors of work. I climbed up the ranks, and eventually became a supervisor. I learned I could now designate the work I had been doing for years among my staff, and so found some time doing more things for myself outside work.

It was also at this time I noticed my mother wasn't getting any younger. I noticed her face had more wrinkles. Her body was a bit more bent, she walked more slowly, and she held the aisles when climbing up stairs. Her medications were piling up, as well. She now felt aches and pains in more places on her body. But her wit was still sharp, and she could still serve a good tongue-lashing whenever one of her *apos* would behave out of line.

> I didn't care if 600,000 germs managed to grab onto that spoon. My old, rickety mother gave it, and I wanted to make her proud by using it

Once, when she took forever to bend down to pick up a spoon off the floor, she declared to everyone around the dining table, "the machine may be old and outdated, but it's still working," while she triumphantly held the spoon up and offered it to me. Grinning, I accepted and carefully wiped it with a napkin. I didn't care if 600,000 germs managed to grab onto that spoon. My old, rickety mother gave it, and I wanted to make her proud by using it. (Of course, at the last moment, she grabbed the spoon and gave me a clean one).

Today is the Sunday before the elections. Tomorrow, she will vote yet again for her favorite president (we're on opposing sides). She can't recall how many elections she has voted in. Being someone who's glued all day to the TV set watching news and noontime shows, the elections are a big thing for her. I'm careful not to get into a heated political debate with her, knowing that she's on medication for her heart. I have learned to keep my mouth shut when it came to things and persons she believed to her bones, for believing in them seemed to help prop up her frail body and enable her to fight tooth and nail in defense of them.

Today, I will be a prodigal son for a day. We won't talk about the future. We won't even talk about the elections tomorrow. I won't say a thing about work, either. I already did my Sunday office chores last night. Now the two of us look forward to spending some quality time in front of the TV watching Manny Pacquiao run rings around his opponent.

That's one more thing about my mom. She's not much of a boxing fanatic, but you can't separate her from the TV when a fellow countryman's out to pound in some Filipino feistiness in a foreigner's consciousness. She used to dream I would be an international boxing superstar one day.

Well, I didn't quite become her dream prizefighter, but at least today I can last more than five minutes on the couch watching TV with her, and not fall asleep. *(Aries B. Espinosa)*

SACRED HEART 'TINY KITCHEN' LESSONS
Sacred Heart School remembers special moms on May 9 at Tagaytay Highlands as Vicky Veloso, together with her mom, hosts a 'Tiny Kitchen' lesson for students and guests of Sacred Heart Schools. For inquiries, call EduWorld at 817-2279 or 813-0670.

Is Mama malnourished? How to tell

ONE SUNDAY lunch with the family, 74-year-old Mama looked thinner, her shirt seemed unusually loose. Although her children wanted to dismiss the observation, the truth was Mama was a bit pale, too, especially her mouth and lips.

Right before their eyes, Mama was showing signs of malnutrition. Her children brought her to the doctor, fearing these signs could easily have serious health consequences.

A closer look at Mama

When a caregiver is with your loved one everyday, it is possible not to notice the signs of malnutrition until the symptoms have become more evident in a matter of months.

To help determine if Papa or Mama is already showing the effects of their poor eating habits and poor nutritional intake, caregivers must watch out for the following physical signs.

- Weight loss
- Muscle wasting (decrease in size of muscle tissue)
- Clothes now seem to have a looser fit.
- Obesity
- Pale lips and mouth
- Cracks around the mouth
- Thinning of hair
- Sunken eyes
- Loved one seems confused but doesn't have Alzheimer's disease
- Wounds take longer to heal/chronic infection
- Loss of balance
- Pressure ulcer (otherwise known as bed sore)
- Presence of edema (a swelling of the legs, feet due to excess water retention)
- Lack of energy, apathy

Consequence of prolonged malnutrition

The heart becomes weaker. The immune system is less able to protect against infection. Intestines are less able to absorb the nutrients that are ingested. Healing of wounds is delayed. There is increased risk of pressure sores, loss of muscle strength, and increased complications after surgery (e.g. sepsis, wound infection, pneumonia).

In this case, Mapa's malnutrition was treated, his mineral imbalances were corrected, his caloric intake normalized. He was given complete oral meal replacement for a more balanced nutrition.

It pays to be suspicious of loved ones who show weight loss, display fatigue and most of the other signs of malnutrition so you can help them gain back a healthier life.

Help your senior loved ones regain a healthier life. Heed the signs of malnutrition and consult your doctor about Ensure-the complete and balanced oral meal replacement.

oy going to the mall with Lola...
but when you see her wandering off,
take it as a warning.

Lola could be suffering from malnutrition.

The risk of malnutrition increases as one ages and the degenerative changes that go along with aging are inevitable. But you and Ensure can help delay the process if you can detect these early signs of malnutrition:

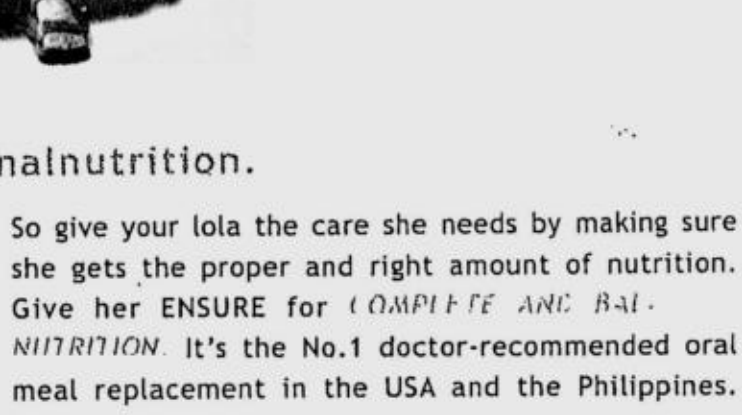
- Memory loss and confusion
- Weight loss
- Dryness of mouth and lips
- Tiredness
  Thinning of hair
- Edema (swelling of the legs and feet due to excess water retention)
- Pale skin

So give your lola the care she needs by making sure she gets the proper and right amount of nutrition. Give her ENSURE for COMPLETE AND BALANCED NUTRITION. It's the No.1 doctor-recommended oral meal replacement in the USA and the Philippines.

ENSURE has the right amounts of proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals to help the body fight infections and diseases.

Surely, you'd like Lola to enjoy the love of the third generation.

Available in leading supermarkets, drugstore chains and groceries nationwide.



The Gift of Love
The No. 1 Doctor-Recommended Oral Meal Replacement

For more information, call
HCS
CALL 6890-444
FOR FREE
NUTRITION ADVICE

ABBOTT LABORATORIES

The 'Disconnected' Look for Single Moms

BEING a mother isn't easy, and being a single mom can seem impossible! With solo parents managing their one-parent family now increasingly regarded as a vital subculture and are accepted as a legitimate and valid unit of society, help is at hand-especially on something single moms like you should worry least about-your hair.

Hair guru Tony Galvez, who is also president of his own school, The Tony Galvez School of Cosmetology (TGSC), understands that the single-parent family's most important resource is the solo parent and nurturing your body, mind and spirit is the best investment you can make not only for yourself but also for your children. And for your crowning glory, the hands-on authority recommends his famous signature hair prescription: wash and wear, low maintenance, wearable, practical and at the same time, a trendy hairstyle that will make single moms look chic at work and sensational during dates.

In four variations in manageable short to chin lengths all taken from different hair magazines, Galvez suggests the extremely popular "Disconnected Look" with hair in disconnection and dislocation-different lengths cut in around the perimeter of the hair; or in choppy layers, feathered back sections, scissor thinned crowns and disjointed fringes.

The result is a random, radical shape and at the same time, a practical style that takes little time and money and still looks edgy. For those special occasions, finger dry with a little blowdrying, or apply a small amount of wax for a messed up, textured look, or use a slick gel for a more clean-cut finish.

With your hair out of the way, you can now devote your precious time and energy to the most important mission in your life and your most unique contribution to our country and the world-raising a happy and healthy family on your own.

Meanwhile, enrollment is ongoing at TGSC for two-year hair specialization courses with diploma and transcript of records, regular certificate courses and one-on-one tutorials. At the same time, a 16-module cosmetology state board exam review based after American and European standards specially designed for those who need to take examination for licensure abroad is also being offered. Five slots for student assistantships and scholarships are open to less fortunate but deserving students as part of the philanthropic philosophy of the school.

For details, visit The Tony Galvez School of Cosmetology at The Tony Galvez Centrum 124 9th Avenue near corner P. Tuazon Boulevard, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City, or call 913-4370 or 913-3953, e-mail tgalvez117@yahoo.com or log on to www.tonygalvez.com.ph.

The Spa's all-out care

THIS whole month of May, The Spa goes all out for the most important woman in the world - Mom. Through The Spa's array of gentle and soothing treatments prepared for mom's total enjoyment, you could give back the care and comfort she has provided you all these years with a full day of relaxation and rejuvenation - The Spa way of making mom feel absolutely special on her big day. Here's your chance to give mom a nurturing, pampering and revitalizing break with the finest Mother's Day treats. Only from The Spa.

From May 1 to 9, your purchase of P3,000 worth of gift certificates from mom entitles you to get a Free Aroma Facial Gift Certificate. From May 8 to 9, The Spa gives you a chance to avail of a Body Massage and another treatment for mom worth P1,300 and up (like the Body Scrub or Facial) and get treated with a refreshing Free Foot Spa. From May 1 to 31, enjoy a discounted price of only P1,685 when you avail of a Honey Body Polish and a Foot Spa that mom would surely remember. Likewise, membership promos entitle moms to get freebies like a Moor Spa Facial, Honey Body Polish and a Foot Spa on top of the 12 free deluxe massages.

Because mom deserves only the best for always giving us the best, we give her just that, and more, in fact. On Mother's Day, all moms will get a chance to pick a prize from Bizu, Dove, Chocolates and Phytomer.

That's all care, all comfort, all for mom. All from The Spa Acropolis Alabang, Bel-Air and Greenbelt.

Big discounts on spa services

URBAN Spa will be celebrating Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day for two whole months, until June 30.

Moms and dads can enjoy 20-percent discount on the following packages: Executive Bliss, a 30-minute body scrub and 30-minute facial treatment); Ingrid Millet Skin Care Services (facial treatments using Ingrid Millet products from France); As In Heaven, a half-day pampering delight that starts with a Dead Sea Salt body scrub, followed by a hair spa treatment, a luxurious 20-minute milk bath, a one-hour Le Urban Spa signature massage, and a one-hour Moon and Ocean facial treatment.

Ten-percent discounts are also offered for the following packages: aromatherapy massages (choose from among three types of body massages: Le Urban Spa signature massage, Oriental Myst or Precious Tranquility); and Ladies Luxury Polish (body scrub followed by a relaxing Swedish massage that uses honey to moisturize skin).

Urban Spa is at 5/L, Wellness Zone, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City. Call 687-6195, fax 687-6196 or visit www.urbanspaphil.com.

Special flowers...

THIS Mother's Day, show mom how special she is with fresh and lovely floral selections from The Flower Farm, the country's most prestigious florist.

There's the "The English Garden" (P1,500), a simple yet elegant arrangement of lisianthus flowers in white, deep purple or pink. Arranged in a tall glass vase, these stunning blooms exude a feminine and delicate appeal-yet last twice as long as roses.

Another charming option is the "Angel's Bugle" (P300), a single gerbera in a collectible flower-shaped glass container. Decorated with a sprig of select foliage, these brightly-hued gerberas will surely delight Mom-and the glass container will be a lovely addition to her collection of flower vases.

Other arrangements include such staples as roses, godetias and lilies in vases or bouquet wraps.

For mothers who love gardening, a range of potted herbs, indoor plants and potted flowering plans is also available. The Flower Farm's plant selection includes sifritzis, palmeras, horse tail and toothpick bamboo plants-perfect indoor plants that enhance interiors and bust pollution as well.

Mini-gerberas, hydrangeas and vincas are also pretty blooms that mom can repot for a garden.

The Flower Farm branches are located in the Makati Central Business District (815-6667); Alabang Town Center (809-4609); Madison Square, Greenhills (722-7122); and Glorietta 4 (752-7206).

...And a special menu

OODY'S Rice, Noodles N' Bar marks Mother's Day with a special Mother's Day Promo.

A group of five diners, including one mom, automatically gets a free dessert, the authentic Singaporean-Thai dish Lod Chong Noodles in Coconut Milk. Lod chong, a common base for Thai desserts, resembles transparent noodles. It is chewy and light.

Oody's has also prepared a special menu for May. Aside from Crispy Catfish in Mango Salad, Pad Thai noodles and Vietnamese Fresh Spring Rolls, the special menu includes noodles, rice with seafoods and curry, and chicken in brown soup with semi-sweet rice noodles. An order of any of these dishes entitles a customer to a free glass of pandan juice.

Happiness in a box

GIVE Mom FlowerByKenzo's Happy Box with a 50 ml eau de toilette and body milk. FlowerByKenzo is composed of three accords: a vibrant bouquet of wild hawthorne, Bulgarian rose, Parma violet and cassia.

Vanilla and white musk combine for a powdery scent, while hedione and cyclosal provide instant freshness and vitality.

FlowerByKenzo's limited edition Happy Box is available while supply lasts in leading department stores nationwide. It is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp.

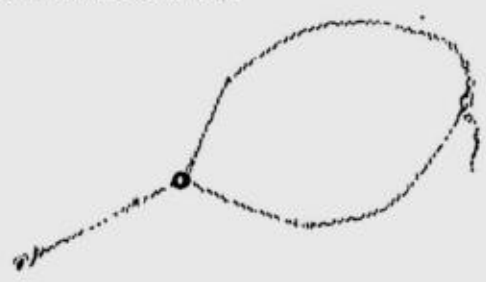
Greeting with Michelis

OUR FIRST experience of unconditional love was when we first looked into our own mother's eyes. From the moment of our conception, and the following 9 months, she carried us, endured labor to bring us into the world. She picked us up when we fell, nursed us when we were sick, disciplined us when we were out of line. As we grew older, she became more of a dear friend and confidant whom we could turn to for advice or guidance when we were faced with the trials life threw our way.

Our mother is an exceptional woman, and deserves only the best of our love and affection. This second Sunday of May, express your love for that special woman in our life with a gift of love that captures your gratitude for all that she's done for you throughout the years.

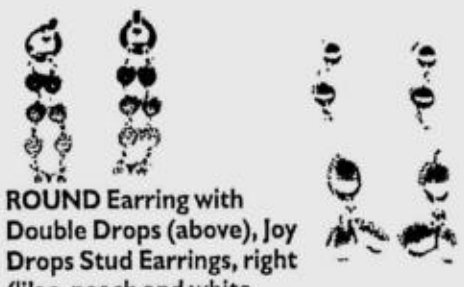
Michelis, the country's premier brand of sterling silver jewelry, has a special Mother's Day collection that captures the uniqueness of a mother's love such as Joy Drops Stud Earrings (lilac, peach and white), Joy Drops Necklace (lilac, peach and white), Round Earrings with Double Drops, and Multi-Pearls Station Chain Necklace-chain with pearls (white).

The Mother's Day Collection is on display at Michelis shops located at Greenbelt 1, Powerplant, Jewellery at Greenhills, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Shangri-la Hotel Makati, Rustan's Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Araneta Center and Rustan's Tower. For inquiries, call 722-8542 local 106 or 116.



MULTI-PEARL Station Chain

JOY DROPS Necklace (lilac, peach and white)



ROUND Earring with Double Drops (above), Joy Drops Stud Earrings, right (lilac, peach and white

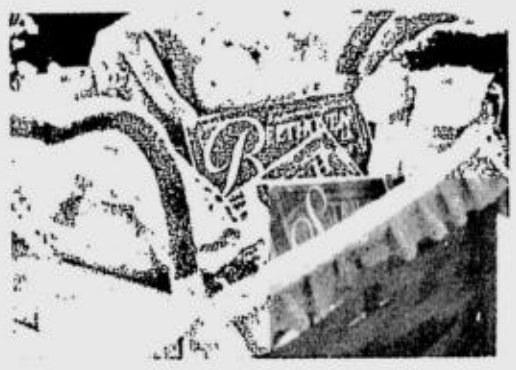
Prenatal classics shown to improve IQs

CAN A mother-to-be actually make her baby smarter before he's born? Studies say yes, she can.

According to Norman Krasgenor, chief of human learning and behavior at the US National Institutes of Health, his studies have shown that a fetus hears sounds and recognizes the rhythm of the mother's heart and voice in the last trimester of pregnancy.

According to these studies, babies who had been exposed to classical music while in their mother's womb exhibit longer attention spans and higher IQs. They are also found to be not as predisposed to crime.

The mounting popularity of using sounds for prenatal stimulation to produce more balanced and intelligent children has triggered the creation of "baby tapes"-audio tapes fitted into a belt and worn around a pregnant woman's abdomen. Californian gynecologist Dr. Rene Van de Carr indicated that babies who had been exposed while still in the womb to these audio tapes showed greater inclination towards calm, confidence, and interest in playing musical instruments.



A particularly good audio material for prenatal stimulation is the masterpiece collection of German musical genius Ludwig van Beethoven, "The Masterpiece Collection-Beethoven I and II. These albums are particularly good for pregnant women because Beethoven's music has very simple and recognizable melodies that make it easier for children to concentrate.

Volume I features seven compositions, including one of the world's most widely acclaimed musical pieces, "Symphony No. 5 in C Minor Op. 67". Also included is "Symphony No. 9 in D Minor Op. 125", where Beethoven incorporated poetry, vocal soloists, and choir, as well as starkly contrasting moods.

Volume 2 carries 9 compositions, including the Sixth Symphony, the Pastoral, which draws on Beethoven's love of nature-a longer and more complex piece. Here, you can also find the "Moonlight Sonata", the second of two sonatas making up Opus 27. One poet said the piece reminded him of moonlight rippling on the waves of Lake Lucerne in Switzerland.

Beethoven's Masterpiece Collection volumes 1 and 2 are available in all Praise Inc music outlets that have other child development soundtracks such as VeggieTales, therapeutic music for relaxation and meditation for adults, and popular praise and worship songs. Its retail arm, the House of Praise, is the country's leading distributor of international and locally produced quality Christian CDs, cassettes, videos and other products. It is located in all major malls in the country.

For inquiries, call 920-5291 local 139, or visit www.praise.com.ph.

Nu Skin thanks world's most beautiful women

NU SKIN Philippines Inc (NSP), a leader in distribution of personal skin care products, will make the most important woman in our life feel and look good through the month-long "Refreshing Mother's Day Treats" comprehensive skin care and hair care packages made available to you at affordable prices.

Mothers whose timeless beauty is one of their greatest gifts to their children will emerge even more youthful with the Nu Skin 180-degree Therapy System designed to bring moisture and elasticity to skin for a healthier, more youthful appearance. As part of the mother's day treat, for every purchase of Nu Skin 180-degree System that consists of five products: Face Wash, Skin Mist, Cell Renewal Fluid, Night Complex, and UV Block Hydrator SPF 18, you get an additional Face Wash for free.

Even more essential to the classic beauty regiment is the Celltrex Ultra Recovery Fluid that significantly reduces the ravages of time by helping reduce free radical activity. For every purchase of Face-Lift Powder and Activator and Clay Pack II, mothers will be entitled to a 15-percent discount on Celltrex Ultra Recovery Fluid.

Younger mothers who have their babies to think of, too, will be enamored with this beauty package that involves Nutricentials, the Nu Skin line of reformulated daily skin health maintenance products. With every purchase of Nutricentials products, young moms will receive a free Baby Epoch Ylang Ylang Massage Gel, a specially formulated gel that works perfectly with infant touch therapy because of its sweet smell and because it is quickly absorbed by baby's tender skin.

Of course, one should never forget their crowning glory. Nutriol Shampoo and Hair Fitness Preparation brings out the best in you as it brings out the best in your hair by revitalizing tired and stressed hair. As part of Nu Skin's tribute to mothers, receive a 20-percent discount for every purchase of Nutriol Shampoo and Hair Fitness Preparation.

Avail yourself of these beauty packages in the month of mothers as a gift of love and beauty from Nu Skin.

Nu Skin's unique and top-of-the-line beauty product range is made available by Nu Skin, one of the global leaders in the multi-level marketing industry. For inquiries, call Nu Skin Enterprises' local affiliate NSP at distributor hotline 689-0333 or log on at www.nuskin.com.ph.

Memorable reads

ANVIL Publishing and National Bookstore mark Mothers' Day with eight books that celebrate woman and mothers. The newly released "Ynang Maria" is a beautiful photo tribute to the different images of the Blessed Mother in the Philippines, as compiled by Fr. Jerry Orbos' group, the Mama Mary Missionaries Foundation, Inc, in honor of different Marian images. A companion handbook, "Hail Mary", is a collection of prayers. The inspiring story of self-made career woman Corazon Del Mundo, who writes about overcoming poverty, loneliness, and single motherhood, is the core of the exciting new book, "Being Extraordinary".

The best-selling "Forever Young" by Cory Quirino discusses meditation, facial masks, body scrubs, exercise, and overall mind-body wellness. For serious cooks and party hosts, "Cooking with Love" and "The Party Cookbook" are wonderful references for family meals and special gatherings. And mothers who enjoy their personal space will relish Marra PL Lanot's collection of poetry in English and Spanish, "Witches' Dance", as well as eminent sex psychologist, Margie Holmes' "Wild, Wicked, Wonderful."

These books are available in all National Bookstore and Powerbooks branches. For inquiries, call Anvil Publishing at 747-1622 or 637-5692.

Riverbanks Mall's fun day

COME and celebrate Mother's Day at Riverbanks Mall. Several fun-filled activities are in store for the entire family. There will be workshop on basic drawing and painting, cooking demo by Lee Kum Kee, a flower and garden show on dish gardening and terrarium making and mini-variety and fun games show. Admission is free.

Grand surprise for mom

GIFT your Mom with a special treat for Mother's Day. Pamper Mom with a Grand Surprise with Grand Boulevard Hotel's special packages. Enticing Packages of P1,625 net per person for overnight accommodations in a Superior Room and P2,125 net per person for a Deluxe Room are available.

Each package includes sumptuous dinner with a glass of wine and Buffet Breakfast at the Café Fontana. Admissions to the Casino Filipino are free of charge. Mom can also relax and bathe in the soothing warm water of the swimming pool. Surprise her more with other discounts. To book your reservations, call the sales department at 526-8588 locals 7343 and 7340. Promo runs from May 8 to 16.

Merry month at Cabalen

CABALEN marks Mother's Day with a pick-a-prize promo for every group of five diners that includes at least one mom.

Customers can win a free spa treatment and gift certificates courtesy of Bioessence. Cabalen also celebrates the festive month of May with its May Fiesta Delight. The Filipino restaurant showcases seven classic Filipino dishes from different parts of the country: Sinigang sa Sampalok Pork Ribs, Lechon de Leche, Calderetang Bibi, Embutido, Rellenong Bangus, Bringhe and Pinaupong Manok.

Cabalen also offers the famous Sorbetes and Cabalen Sandosenang Halo-Halo, consisting of kamote, saging, gulaman, red monggo, white beans, macapuno, nata de coco, garbanzos, leche flan, pinipig, sago and ube halaya.

Cabalen branches are at West Avenue, Katipunan, Sta. Lucia, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM City Manila, Glorietta 3 and Robinsons Ermita. Call 421-9220 for catering.

Nurture your child confidently with NIDO1+.

Its unique fiber-rich PREBIO[1] ingredient helps protect your child's digestive system from diarrhea, constipation and other tummy problems.

Its also helps maintain proper nutrition by providing essential vitamins, minerals and all the health-giving goodness of milk.

You can be confident your child will grow healthy and strong.

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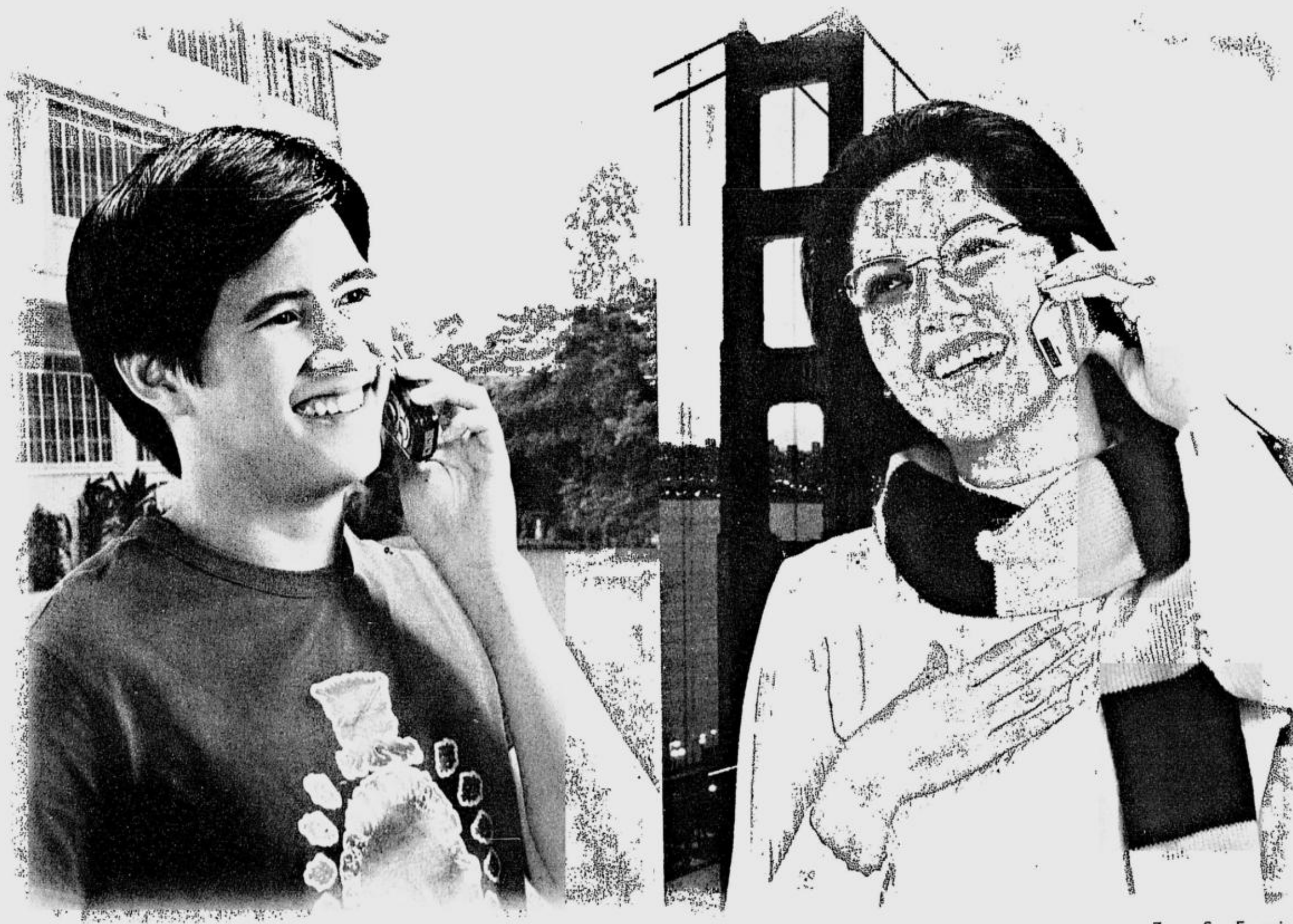
NIDO
FORTIFIED
Growing Up
Prebio 1™

Amazing Nestlé® Milk

Laging protektado. Laking NIDO.

Noong bata ka pa, laging nandyan si mommy tuwing kailangan mo siya.

Ngayong nasa abroad siya, iparamdam mo namang nandyan ka para sa kanya.



10 a.m. Manila

7 p.m. San Francisco

Tawagan mo naman si mommy ngayong Mother's Day.

It's not just about making an IDD call

It's about building family values

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A Mother's Day reminder from SMART Buddy IDD.

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Thursday 12:00 noon

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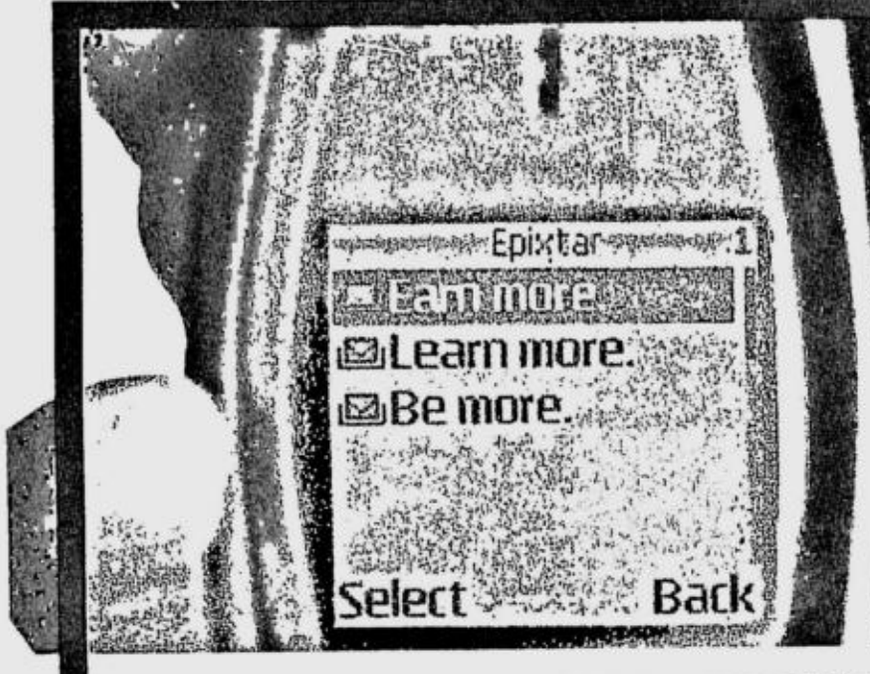

Are You Ready?

ABOVE-PAR WAGES • INCENTIVE PROGRAMS • US-BASED COMPANY • TRAINING VALUABLE SKILLS • HIGH-ENERGY ENVIRONMENT • CAREER ADVANCEMENT

Accounting Clerk
Possess at least a Bachelor's/College degree in accounting, 1-4 yrs experience specializing in Finance and General/Cost Accounting or equivalent.

Attorney
Responsible to provide legal support, liaison, & counsel to the local Philippine entity: combined with reporting responsibility to the U.S. parent.

Asset Management Supervisor
Responsible for the proper custodianship of physical assets as set forth in the Company's Inventory Management System. Coordinate and enforce the policies relevant to the safekeeping and proper operation of our physical assets.

Benefits Assistant
Provide assistance to employees regarding corporate benefits packages, including medical insurance, life insurance, leaves, and loans. Process enrollments, changes, and terminations in these packages. Maintain and update benefits database.

Build out Project Manager
Oversee the required structural tests before advising the company for or against acceptance. Project expected budgets & time-lines, making adjustments where necessary to ensure adherence.

Company Nurse
Provide injured/ill employees with access to medical treatment, advice, or direction to appropriate medical treatment. Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree or Professional License (Passed Board/Bar/Professional License Exam) in Nursing. Medical Science, Medicine or equivalent.

Compensation & HR Systems Manager
Manage the Compensation and Performance System. Develop, administer, and automate corporate compensation and HR systems. Review and document employee changes. Address salary, compensation, and benefits issues and makes appropriate recommendations for new HR e-applications .

Corporate Concierge
Provide assistance with lodging, transportation, professional and personal services for visiting executives & clients. Responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the executive lodging & entertainment area.

Executive Assistant
Duties include diary management, booking internal and external meetings, amending presentations in PowerPoint, as well as handling and processing expenses. Additionally, general office duties along with ad hoc project work administration. 5-10 years office experience with the ability to work effectively in a high-pressure environment.

Facilities Manager
Operation and maintain corporate building infrastructure. Manage service providers such as janitorial, security and any other related to repairs, maintenance and supply for our building infrastructure. Coordinate with assigned Project Managers concerning relevant issues during construction and fit out. Assist sourcing and review for construction and building related items.

Facilities Quality Assurance
Ensure the proper operation and upkeep of building related infrastructure. Maintain contractor compliance on quality and standards for awarded projects. Assist with sourcing bid review for construction and building related items. Prepare reports, letters and other correspondence related to assigned tasks.

Front Desk Associate
The suitable cant id ate will have an outgoing, engaging personality and the ability to direct calls to the appropriate destination within the organization.

HRIS Assistant
Maintain HR Information System and produce related reports. Maintain employee records, reports, and logs. Monitor the performance appraisal process. Maintain and update organizational information; employee HR documentation — new employee, exit interview, and benefits package.

Operations Business Analyst
Responsible for the overall reporting, MIS & analytical functions of multiple call centers & programs. Assist Call Centre Directors & Program Managers in identifying, recommending and implementing changes based on statistical analysis to improve quality and performance of the team. Should possess expert knowledge of statistical analysis.

Operations Director
This position is responsible for the overall performance of the centers) from a metrics, efficiency, & analytical perspective. Works with the Call Centre Directors to identify, recommend, and implement changes based on statistical analysis to improve team quality and performance.

Operations MIS Developer
Responsible for the development of MIS reporting, as per the requirements of a multi-program, multi-site call center operation. Duties include creating / generating accurate management and operational reports (Excel, VB / VBA, SQL & Crystal Reports) essential to the organization.

Organizational Development Manager
Direct, implement, and monitor the Organizational Development and Training areas. Focus areas include organizational development, change management, culture support, all aspects of training, and conflict resolution. Partner with internal client groups to provide coaching and guidance in both strategic and tactical domains.

Network Security Engineer
Responsible for the integrity of voice and data networks. Plan and implementation a comprehensive IT security framework for operations. Enable proactive approach to threats such as viruses, worms, trojans, outside hackers, internal security, etc. Manage of supplier and vendor relationships.

Senior Programmer
Architect and develop client-related applications. Supervised assigned programmers. Responsible for the timely completion of application development for ongoing project/account implementations.

Workforce Planning Manager
Responsible for the optimal staff forecasting & scheduling of the call centers. Assist Call Centre Directors to identify, recommend, and implement changes based on statistical analysis to improve staffing efficiencies. Should possess expert knowledge of workforce planning (2 years plus).

Call Center Agents
Conduct outbound phone sales to businesses and consumers in a high-energy, positive, state-of-the-art work environment offering a variety of products and services on behalf of Epixtar's clients.

Investment Banking Analyst
Possess an understanding of the investment banking business. As part of a team, you will be engaged in projects such as company valuation, strategic advisory, execution of debt and equity offerings, and new business origination.

Recruitment Officer
Short list CVs and confirm criteria for employment. Provide detailed feedback into the recruiting, assessment, and selection process. The ideal candidate will be a team player with excellent organizational skills. Experience will include large volume recruiting campaigns.

Training Manager
Deliver client specific and program specific agent training utilizing a team of trainers. You will possess experience delivering training and tracking training successes as well as proficiency in instructional design.

Apply: Mon- Fri, between 10am - 6 pm at the 8th Flr, Tower 2, Insular Life Corporate Centre Corporate Ave. cor. Commerce Ave, Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City. For inquiries 857.8000. **Online:** www.callcentercareer.com.

Requirements: Willing to work in Alabang/Eastwood • Filipinio Citizen or resident • Written spoken English skills • Computer Literacy • Knowledge of US Culture & geography preferred • Call center experience preferred

www.callcentercareer.com • www.epixtar.com

WHEN ETELECARE MAKES NEWS, THE COUNTRY LISTENS.

Being famous surely has its perks. You get to go to places, meet interesting people, and even **do great things for your country.**

That's how we feel and the President knows exactly what we're talking about. After all, eTelecare is the **largest Call Center in the Philippines providing jobs to 4,000 people plus 400 more each month.**

We're also celebrated by the global industry for our **award-winning performance that proved to the world that the Filipino can be a world-class in providing Call Center Services.**

So it's really no surprise that President Arroyo would visit the **WORLD'S MOST AWARDED CALL CENTER.** It was truly bound to happen that she would one day wish to meet eTelecare's excellent workforce.

PRESIDENT GLORIA ARROYO MEETS THE WORLD'S BEST CALL CENTER AGENT (Customer Care Leadership Awards), ETELECARE'S ARLYN ACLETA. LOOKING ON IS DTI SECRETARY CESAR PURISIMA.

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Training Officer
Speech Trainers
Organizational Dev't (OD) Officer
OD Trainer – Behavioral & Learning Programs

IT Managers
Network Administrator / Engineers
Computer Systems Specialists
Telecommunications Engineers

Purchasing Manager
Facilities Officer

MANILA
Multilingual Representatives
For Italian, Spanish, and Japanese

Public Relations Manager
Compensation and Benefits Manager
Business Continuity Planning Manager

Applications Developers
IT Security Officers

CONTACT OUR RECRUITING TEAM

MANILA
• 20F CITIBANK 5Q, EASTWOOD, LIBIS QC.
TEL 9165670 FAX 9162200
recruiting@etelecare.com
• 12F PBCOMM TOWER, AYALA, MAKATI

CEBU
UNIT 308 KEPPEL CENTER, SAMAR LOOP,
CEBU CITY TEL (32) 415-8061 TO 63
ceburecruiting@etelecare.com

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TRAINING OFFICER

25- 35 years old; Graduate of B.S. in Psychology, Behavioral Science, Management or Mass Communication from a reputable School ● With at least four (4) years experience in Training, 2 years of which is in a supervisory level ● Will be responsible for doing Training Needs Analysis, designing and conducting Leadership and other Developmental Programs ● With very good verbal & written communication skills; self-motivated; energetic; adaptable and can relate to people well ● Creative; Computer-Savvy in MS Windows applications ● Willing and able to travel around the country

HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANT (Administrative Services)

Preferably male; 22- 28 years old; Graduate of B.S. in Psychology, Behavioral Science or Business/Management course from a reputable School ● With at least 1 year experience in the same capacity ● Will be responsible for processing of store permits and licenses and will also perform other administrative duties ● With good verbal communication & interpersonal skills; adaptable ; persuasive and possesses good negotiating skills ● Computer-Savvy in MS Windows applications ● Willing and able to travel

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 colored photo and Transcript of Records to:
HR-Selection & Hiring Unit
Rm. 1004 Jollibee Center Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City
or, via: apply@greenwich.com.ph

UPLIFT Philippines Inc.

Urban Program for Livelihood Finance and Training

UPLIFT is a microfinance NGO created 10 years ago by a French Organization. We are providing about 20,000 Loans and Saving products a year to poor households of the depressed areas of Metro Manila. Uplift employs 180 persons.

We are currently looking for a Program Manager for our Quezon City Program and Central Finance and Admin Manager for our Central Head office located in Caloocan. The following are the details:

Program Manager (PM)

1 - In charge of a microfinance program providing loan, saving and teaching to urban poors of the Quezon City area, the PM will ensure that all 33 members of his/her team are properly monitored, trained and managed to implement the strategy and methodology of the organization..
2 - S/he is part of the Management Committee of the organization, participating in most of the "key decisions.
3 - Ensure good relation with other program heads or the central UPLIFT management for proper implementation of micro finance method.
4 - Ensure that field and HO team are equipped with all the necessary training and exposure in the system as well as others
5 - Coordinate with Finance/Admin Manager, Field Operations Manager and Human Resource Officer for better understanding of the whole situation of the program. S/He is their direct supervisor.

Position Profile
1 - Business course with strong background in microfinance. Generalist profile to be able to manage HR, Finance and Administration, and Operations.
2 - Analytical skills
3 - Ability to work with foreigners and to handle relationship with foreign donors
4 - 30 to 50 years old,.
5 - Autonomous, dynamic, flexible, ready for challenge in a complex environment, with a strong capacity to think out of the box.
6 - Committed to work for an NGO where the main reward is the fulfillment to work with 170 young people dedicated to the services provided to more than 10,000 families.

The Central Finance and Admin Manager (CFAM) :

1 - Production of consolidated Financial Statement: Income Statement, Balance Sheet
2 - Budget preparation and Follow-up
3 - Consolidated treasury needs management
4 - Payroll computation and management
5 - Rreports to the donors
6 - Annual External Audit
7 - Financial and Accounting Analyses: ratio, monthly figures on the activity
8 - Management of his team and of the Finance and Admin Managers of each program: 8 persons in total

Position Profile:
1 - CPA
2 - 5 to 10 years of experience as a Finance and Admin Manager in a Bank or in a MicroFinance Institution
3 - Professional in using Accounting sofware, preferably Peach Tree or ACCPAC
4 - not below 35 years old
5 - Committed to work for an NGO where the main reward is the fulfillment to work with 170 young people dedicated to the services provided to more than 10,000 families.

If you think you meet the above requirements, please send your resume and application letter to:
daye.aguinaldo@uplift.org.ph,
or to: 2nd Flr., APN Bldg.,
172 A. Mabini St., Maypajo, Caloocan City

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OPERATIONS CONSULTANTS

Shall be responsible for operational aspect of a franchise engagement, including, but not limited to system/process analysis, standardization, streamlining and documentation of client operations.

Background and actual experience in developing, managing, and documenting the operations of a franchise business (food, retail or service). At least 28 years old, graduate of a top school with Business or Engineering degree Strong proficiency in the use of business software as tools for analysis and development. Strong interpersonal, communication and analytical skills.

TECHNICAL WRITER/EDITOR

Shall be responsible for research, writing, editing and proofreading of manuals, documents, plans and marketing materials for our clients.

Minimum 3 years experience in writing and editing documents a must; relevant work experience for a franchise operations an advantage. Must be 25-35 years old; graduate of Business or Communication. Excellent writing and editing skills, strong analytical abilities required. Meticulous, reliable, results-oriented with eye for detail.

TRAINING MANAGER

Responsible for conducting franchise sales/marketing trainings.

Background in conducting sales/marketing programs. At least 28 years old, a graduate of Marketing or Mass Communications with ability and experience in public speaking and giving training courses. Good command of English, articulate, aggressive, pleasant with lots of personality. Strong presentation and communication skills required.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE HEAD

Responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Company.

Degree in business or accounting preferred; Min. 3 years management and/or accounting experience; Computer literate & proficient in business softwares particularly Excel; Strong leadership & management abilities; Organized, dependable/reliable, results-oriented; can work under pressure. Excellent organizational, analytical, interpersonal/communication skills.

Send resume with colored photo to:
FRANCORP PHILIPPINES
Unit 2809 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Email: info@francorp.com.ph (send as inline text)

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

5 Leaf Publishing is in need of the following:

Account Executive
- Preferably Male not more than 30 years old
- Marketing graduate
- With experience in sales and marketing

Editorial Assistant
- Male, not more than 30 years old
- Comm Arts/Mass Comm graduate
- With experience in writing articles and copy editing

Bring your resumé to Unit 305 Southgate Bldg. 1508, Finance Drive, Madrigal Business Park Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City or e-mail at: info@unomag.com

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EARN UP TO
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If you are:
- M/F, 21-52 years old
- College Graduate
- Willing to undergo trainings

Call: 892-2818/817-8262 for interview schedules

WANTED
Experienced Office Administrator
- a college graduate
- preferably w/an accountancy background

Pls. submit personally or send your resumé at this address:
3301 Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Look for: Paul

GENJI RESTAURANT
206 Carpark Bldg. Bridgeway Greenhills Shopping Center San Juan M.M. Is In need:

Restaurant Manager and Service Supervisor
- Age 25 to 35
- HRM graduates 2 to 3 yrs. working experience
- Pleasing personality, able to command
- Must be fluent in English, both oral and written
- Knowledge on Japanese cuisines
- Good Penmanship
- Good in Math, knowledge in computer

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
TELEMARKETERS
(Very Attractive Remuneration)

Must be:
- Willing to work in Bacoor, Cavite (nr. SM)
- 1 yr Telemarketing exp
- Can speak English clearly, with a nice voice, pleasing personality
- Result-driven and goal oriented.

Note: Submit your resumé at chi_nance@yahoo.com from May 10 to 12.

Only qualified applicants will be given notice

DKT Philippines, Inc. — a non-government, non stock, non-profit organization involved in the distribution of contraceptive and family planning products is in need of:

Product Manager
(Ethical Products)

The Brand Manager for Ethical Products will be responsible for the overall performance of DKT's business in fertility and reproductive health product/brand management. The successful candidate will develop and implement a strategy geared to surpass current sales achievement. He/she will be responsible for product development and market expansion focusing on hormonal and other related ethical products. He/she will be part of a dynamic marketing team, and a highly successful and motivated salesforce.

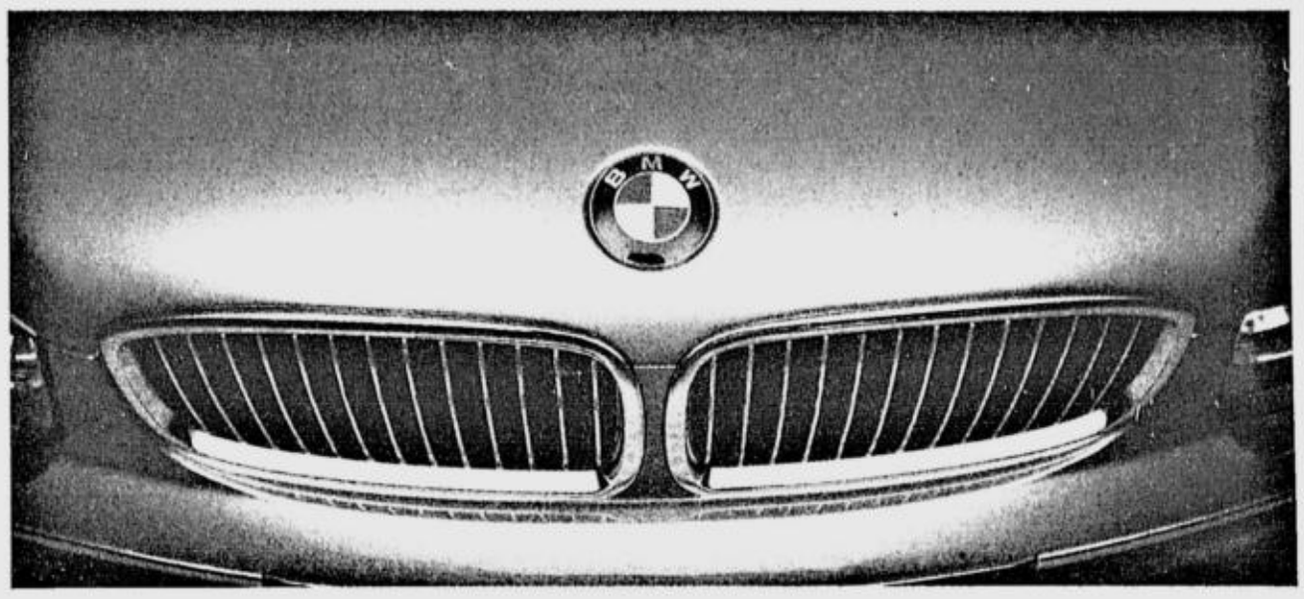
Qualifications:

We seek an experienced and energetic manager with a 5-7 years background in sales and marketing of ethical/pharmaceutical products. A strong focus in contraceptive technology, family planning, and reproductive health is a plus. Experience and familiarity with government and non-government organization is a distinct advantage.

We offer a package commensurate with qualifications and experience. All qualified and interested parties may submit a letter of application to the attention of:

HRD
Suite 801 The Linden Suites
37 San Miguel Avenue
Pasig City

Or may forward your resumé to:
brd@frenzy.com.ph



Marketing Manager – BMW Automobiles

BMW Philippines Corporation is a joint venture company 70% owned by BMW AG, Germany. Since incorporation it has led the premium car segment in the Philippines, gaining a majority share. Presently the company is in the midst of a major new model offensive, as well as delivering new and innovative customer service initiatives, and Used car programs.

The company seeks a marketing professional with outstanding work ethic and communication skills to contribute to the next phase of brand, dealer and product development in the Philippines.

Reporting to the President, the successful candidate will be responsible for the strengthening of the BMW brand through use of all marketing tools, disciplines, making use of the worldwide BMW network, and actively supporting local dealer initiatives/events.

Technical qualifications:

- Business degree in Marketing, Business or any related course.
- Strong background and experience in Brand Management.
- Heavy exposure to all areas of Marketing such as Research, Product Planning, Advertising, Events Management, Dealer Marketing and Customer Relationship Management.
- Extensive experience in the automotive industry is desirable, but not absolutely necessary.

Personal qualifications:

- Must be able to lead and inspire the Marketing team to achieve business objectives.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Able to work in a multinational/multicultural environment.

Interested applicants are urged to email or send their comprehensive resume to

hr@bmw.com.ph or Human Resources Department
BMW Philippines Corporation, 15/F PhilamLife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Please send your comprehensive resume before May 16, 2004.

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SKECHERS

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
Female/Single, at least 21-25 years of age. With a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Accountancy, Management, or any relevant business course. With exceptional leadership skills/qualities, outstanding mathematical and analytical ability, innate business/entrepreneurial skills, and a keen eye for detail. Must be able to work under pressure and with minimum supervision. With an excellent scholastic record, preferably with honors.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
Female/Single, at least 21-25 years of age. Bachelor's degree in Accountancy. Result, deadline and goal-oriented person. With high aptitude in Mathematics and high analytical ability. Proficient in computer applications. With good scholastic record.

GRAPHIC/VISUAL MERCHANDISING ARTIST
Must have a good fashion sense. Adept in computer design software such as Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & Corel Draw. Graduate of Fine Arts, Architecture or other related course. Team player, mature & can work w/ minimum supervision. Male/Female, 23-28 years of age, preferably single.

MIS STAFF
Male/Female, at least 22-29 years of age. Candidates must possess a Bachelor's/College Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology/Management Information System, Accountancy or its equivalent from a reputable university. Responsible for network and database administration. Determined, organized and with strong leadership skills. Strong analytical skills, creative, resourceful and result-oriented.

SALES/OFFICE/HR ASSISTANT
Female/Single, at least 21-25 years of age. Preferably a graduate of Psychology, Accountancy, Business Administration or any related course. Proficient in computer applications. Deadline and people-oriented individual. Can work under pressure with minimum supervision. With good scholastic record.

STORE SUPERVISOR
Female/Single, at least 21-25 years of age. Graduate of any 4-year business course. Organized, systematic, and can work with minimum supervision and with proven leadership skills.

Recruitment Personnel
Unit E-2801A, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Tektite East Tower, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-mail : fimc@fastmail.i-next.net

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dB Wizards Inc., is the leading Microsoft Gold Certified Partner for Learning Solutions in the country, and a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner for Business Intelligence (BI). Aside from BI, we also focus on Enterprise Application Integration, I.T. Infrastructure Consulting and Custom Application Development using .NET technology.

We are in need of the following to join us in our pursuit of continued growth:

CONSULTANTS:

Infrastructure (CODE: INFRA)
- Must have experience in administering Windows NT/2000 or 2003, Exchange 5.5/2000 or 2003, MS Proxy 2.0/ ISA server
- Experience working with ISP, Help Desk or Support Technician/Engineer.

Enterprise Application Integration (CODE: EAI)
- Working knowledge on the following technologies: BizTalk Server 2000 or higher, XML, SQL Server VS6/NET development

Business Intelligence / Data Warehousing (CODE: BI/DW)
- Working knowledge of the following technologies: SQL Server 7/2000/Analysis Services, experience in T-SQL, DTS, VB6, VBScript programming. Experience in OLAP development projects an advantage.

TRAINING SPECIALIST (CODE: TS)
- Extensive expertise in a designated course classification
  - ** System trainers must be expert in planning, managing and administering Windows technologies
  - ** Database trainers must be expert in designing and implementing SQL server 7/2000 database servers
  - ** Developer trainers must have extensive experience in developing applications using Microsoft platform
- Instructional working experience is an advantage

Applicants for the Consultants & Training Specialist must also have the following qualifications:

General Qualifications:
- Graduate of Computer Science; BS Math or other related course
- Experience in the following technologies: SQL Server 7/2000, VS6/NET development, Windows NT/ 2000/2003
- Any Microsoft Certification is an advantage (MCT, MCP, MCSE, MCSD, MCDBA)

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES(CODE:MT)
- Graduate of Computer Science, Information Technology or other related course
- Fresh graduates/Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply

SR. ACCOUNT MANAGERS (CODE:SAM)
- At least 2 year sales/account management experience
- Sales goal oriented, highly motivated, ambitious individual
- Must have excellent consultative relationship building skills

Interested applicants are requested to send immediately their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and a recent 2X2 photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT:
28/F 88 Corporate Center Sedeño Corner Valero St, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Email to: hr@wizardsgroup.com
(Kindly specify Position Code)
Visit our Website: www.wizardsgroup.com

Microsoft GOLD CERTIFIED Partner | Learning Solutions
Microsoft GOLD CERTIFIED Partner | Business Intelligence
Microsoft CERTIFIED Partner | Learning Solutions

We are a progressive marketing and promotions company specializing in below-the-line advertising, promotional and merchandising efforts as well as events management. We have satellite offices nationwide (Pampanga, Cabuyao, Naga, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Davao, General Santos and Cagayan de Oro).

We need the following competent individuals to work with our clients on their marketing support activities from planning, project implementation up to the analysis and evaluation of the results thereof.

SALES and PROMO SUPERVISOR
- College graduate
- Male/Female, below 27 years old
- At least 2 years work experience
- Experience with consumer products preferred
- Familiar with trade marketing activities
- With keen eye to details
- Computer literate

(*Please indicate your area preference, Greater Manila Area, Davao, Pampanga, Cabuyao)

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Male/Female, below 27 years old
- Fresh graduates and entry-level applicants are encouraged to apply.
- Computer literate
- Multi-tasker

Please send your application letter, comprehensive resumé, 2x2 picture and transcript of records at:

DANCERG MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS SERVICES
5th Floor, FCC Building
7494 Santillan Street, Makati City

Section A.

To leverage on our success and double-digit growth in Asia Pacific, SAS Philippines is seeking outstanding professionals to provide innovative solutions for business decisions makers in the country.

Section B.

ABOUT SAS

SAS is the market leader in providing a new generation of business intelligence software and services that create true enterprise intelligence. SAS solutions are used at more than 38,000 sites – including 99 of the top 100 businesses on the Fortune 500 – to develop more profitable relationships with customers and suppliers; to enable better, more accurate and informed decisions; and to drive organizations forward. SAS Asia Pacific contributes 20% of the international revenue, which we aim to grow to a contribution of 40% by 2005. In the region, we employ over 850 people in 26 offices, in 13 countries. For 26 years, SAS has been giving customers around the world, The Power to Know®.

Visit us at www.sas.com.

Section C.

PROJECT CONSULTANTS

This role requires experience in IT project development and implementation in the areas of data management and Business Intelligence. Experience in Statistical Analysis or background in statistic is preferred

This role requires at least 3 years experience for the above requirements. Applicant is expected to do both presales and postsales assignments.

PRESALES TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

This role involves crafting technical solution architecture to customer prospects, and integrating SAS with partner products including operating platforms/hardware.

3 years or more in-depth technical knowledge of complex IT environments is needed for this role. A broad understanding of various business industries and issues is required. Knowledge of SAS's product and solution offerings in order to handle its integration and design is an advantage.

MARKETING/ADMIN STAFF

Reporting to Sales and Marketing Manager, you will provide strong administrative support by providing proper coordination of correspondences, meetings and client activities to ensure company objectives are met. You will also assist in the implementation of marketing activities through organizing events and telesales/telemarketing.

This role requires at least 1-3 years working experience preferably in the IT industry. Experience in marketing events management and telesales is essential.

Section D.

We are inviting applications from highly motivated and result oriented professionals with strong business acumen, excellent communication and presentation skills.

Interested applicants are invited to apply strictly by email to sasphilippines@sas.com

Applicants must provide a comprehensive resume detailing key professional achievements and clearly demonstrate how their previous career experience meets the above criteria.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

GOVERNANCE OFFICER / FINANCIAL ANALYST

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Governance – Assist the CFO and the Excom in ensuring that the group's governance documents are complete and up-to-date in every respect
- Financial Analyst – Prepare, under the direction of the CFO and/or CEO, regular financial reports as well as special reports and projects that may be required by senior management, Excom or the Board.
- Investor Relations – Coordinate Excom and Board meetings; liaise with the representatives or key persons of current and prospective investor groups; manage requests for information from all external parties

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Preferably a CPA or business graduate
- At least three (3) years immediate work experience either as Financial Analyst, Bank Lending Officer / Investment Banking Associate, Corporate Governance Staff or Auditor (internal or external)

Interested parties may email their resumés at rnayona@info.com.ph before May 15, 2004.

Executive Search

Our client is an **Integrated Marketing Communications Company** in the region and is expanding in the Philippines. Those without agency experience but with a solid track record of performance and integrity are also encouraged to apply. The following are their urgent personnel requirements:

Creative Director
- 5 year agency experience
- a leader and can mobilize and manage a team
- a strong grasp of the basic fundamentals of IMC

Writers
- proficient in speech, feature and news writing
- at least 2 years of advertising/pr/government work

Graphic Designers
- Strong Agency Portfolio
- at least 3 years of solid agency work

Account Directors/Managers
- at least 3 years agency work
- has serviced and developed international brands and applied them to the Philippine setting

Administrative Assistants/Executive Assistants
- keen sense for details
- comes from a backstopping culture
- vibrant, energetic and can keep up with the pace of multi-account servicing
- proficient in PPT, Word and Excel

Finance and Human Resource Consultants
- To be contracted on a retainer basis
- At least 5 years continuous experience in a multi-national corporation setting
- At least 3 years in the consulting industry

Please send cover letter indicating what you can contribute to the position applied for, CV, salary history and three verifiable references to MK-144 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer-Classifieds, G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City on or before May 22.

THE WORLD BANK OFFICE MANILA

Requires A

TEAM ASSISTANT

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) has a vacancy for a **top caliber Team Assistant** to provide efficient and high-quality secretarial and administrative support to the Rural Development and Natural Resources Team. This position will be for a two-year term appointment, subject to one-year probationary period, with possibility of renewal. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Drafts routine correspondence and proof-read documents using proper grammar, punctuation and style.
- Edits documents based on comments provided by the team members.
- Uses word processing or desktop publishing skills to produce complex text, figures, graphs, etc., according to standard Bank formats and business procedures.
- Coordinates and updates team and mission schedules taking priorities and changes into account, monitor changes, and inform relevant parties accordingly.
- Solve non-routine problems (e.g., responds to requests requiring file search and basic research through Intranet or Internet, Bank manuals).
- Assists in the preparation and logistical planning of various events, e.g., missions, conferences, workshops, etc.
- Tracks key milestones and alerts Task Team Leaders on the tasks' timelines, deliverables, budget status, etc.
- Coordinates with relevant staff, and provides assistance and or information on project related matters as requested.
- Maintains and regularly updates distribution lists, contact lists of project counterparts, etc
- Ensures timely distribution of documents based on Bank procedures.
- Keeps track of paper flow and maintains up to date unit and project files (both paper and electronic).
- Participates in selected mission activities such as meetings and field work.
- Responds effectively and in a timely manner to information requests from the team, other Bank staff, external clients and partners.

Selection criteria:

- College degree in any Social Science or Business courses;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to establish and maintain excellent work relations in a team environment;
- High degree of initiative, flexibility and resourcefulness with a drive for efficiency and results;
- Excellent organizational skills, ability to prioritize assignment and work effectively under pressure with minimum supervision;
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Database program);
- Thorough working knowledge of general office procedures, facsimile machines and e-mails; and
- Minimum five (5) years experience in secretarial and administrative work, preferably with high ranking officials.

The World Bank offers a competitive compensation package based on the local market, and attractive medical and pension plans. The salary will not be subject to income tax.

Please send your Application Letter, with comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than May 31, 2004 to :
KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc., c/o Ruby C. Barcelona at 22/F 139 Corporate Centre, 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or email to rubib@ksearch.com.ph ; fax to 893-6259

Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.

KSEARCH

KMBI

A Christian development organization engaged in Microfinance & Business Development Services needs the following staff for its expansion in Calabarzon area (Sta. Cruz, San Pablo, Calamba, Batangas, Quezon), Caraga Region (Butuan, Sungao, Agusan), Bicol & Southern Mindanao areas.

Finance Officer
- Male/Female, a graduate of Accountancy
- Values driven, diligent worker & team leader
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/Mindanao
- With 3-5 years supervisory experience, CPA is an advantage
- Exceptionally adept with all facets of Finance & Accounting

Business Devt. Services/Training Officer
- Male/Female, a graduate of any business course
- Values driven, diligent worker & team player
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/ Mindanao
- With 1-2 years exp. in community organizing
- Innovative, people oriented and motivator
- An active Christian

Audit Manager
- Male/Female, a graduate of Accountancy
- Values driven, diligent worker & team-player
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/ Mindanao
- With 2-3 years managerial auditing experience

R & D Associates
- Male/Female, a graduate of any business course
- Values driven, diligent worker & team-player
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/ Mindanao
- Familiar on conduct of surveys, brochure & newsletter making with exceptional writing skills

Admin. Officer
- Male/Female, a graduate of Business or Accountancy course
- Organized, values driven and diligent worker
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/Mindanao
- Familiar in all facets of admin works, such as building admin., assets management and inventory and general services

Branch Accountants
- Male/Female, a graduate of accountancy
- Familiar in FS preparation, and Branch to Head office reporting
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon & Mindanao

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture at the HRD Dept., KMBI Head Office, #12 KMBI Bldg., San Francisco St., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City or email at kmbi@skynet.net or m_orodio@yahoo.com

Telephone Numbers: 291-1484-85; Fax No: 292-2441

We offer above minimum salary rates, Php 1-M Accident Insurance Coverage, Health Benefit, Rice Allowance, and Incentive Package on top of the statutory benefits, plus a chance to travel locally and international.

A leading law firm in Quezon City needs

LAWYERS

- must be successful examinees of 2002 or 2003 Bar Exams
- graduate of U.P., Ateneo or San Beda
- must be interested in trial and corporate practice

Please apply in person with comprehensive resumé and ID picture at:

Rm 2K Edificio Enriqueta
422 N.S. Amoranto St. corner
D. Tuason Avenue, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, M.M.

TGA Foods Corporation, a fish processing company located at Clark Special Economic Zone, Clark Field, Pampanga is in need of the following

One (1) Production Manager
- Male or female
- Graduate of Food Technology
- Proficient in written & oral communication
- Adequate experience in Food Processing business
- With good working attitude and can work well with minimum supervision

One (1) Sales Executive
- Male or female
- College graduate
- Proficient in written & oral communication
- With experience in selling to institutional buyers
- Knows how to drive

Requirements
Application Letter
Comprehensive Resume
Transcript of Records

Send to
Ethel Ochoa
Email tgafoods@conclark.com
TeleFax 045-5996536
GSM 09/09204074 / 0918 9014344

EARN BIG, RIGHT NOW!

We are looking for industrious, sociable, hardworking and confident individuals with a pleasing personality and good oral presentation skills. Age 18-30.

Positions for Full Time and Part Time Sales Specialists are open.

Apply personally or send your resume with a 2x2 picture to Mitch or Cielo:
cielo@thecolumbary com ph
Mon-Fri, 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

The Columbary
2nd Floor One Joroma Place Bldg ,
Congressional Ave , cor. San Beda St , Quezon City
453-9215. Cielo or 425-1508 to 09. Mitch

IMMEDIATE HIRING:

Supervisor for Training & Research
- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work (Master's Degree an advantage) & at least 3 years practice
- Proficient in oral & written communication
- Computer literate
- At least 3 years experience in coordinating and conducting training & research activities
- Experience in module & IEC materials dev't

Training Assistant
- Bachelor's Degree in Communication Arts, Social Sciences or related courses
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Computer literate (Ms Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Experience in training & documentation activities

Send application with complete CV to:

NORFIL
#16 Mother Ignacia cor Roces Ave , Q.C.
E-mail: norfil@philonline.com.ph

Roche

Diagnostics

Who we are

We are the world leader in the diagnostics market. We offer a unique range of innovative products specializing in the rapid and accurate diagnosis and monitoring of diseases through chemistry laboratory systems, therapeutic drug monitoring, diabetes monitoring and point of care, among others. Locally, we operate as a division of Roche (Philippines) Inc.

Division Controller

(Application Code: DC)

Reporting to the Country Manager, the successful candidate is responsible for monitoring systems and procedures for the Diagnostics division and is in-charge of the division's local and regional reports. To qualify, you must hold a B.S. Accounting degree and must be a Certified Public Accountant. A Senior Manager with at least 5 years experience in the same function, the ideal candidate must have demonstrated expertise in Auditing, Finance and Accounting procedures. Knowledge in SAP system is an advantage. Leadership, outstanding interpersonal skills, excellent communications skills, and computer literacy is required.

Marketing Associates

(Application Code: MA)

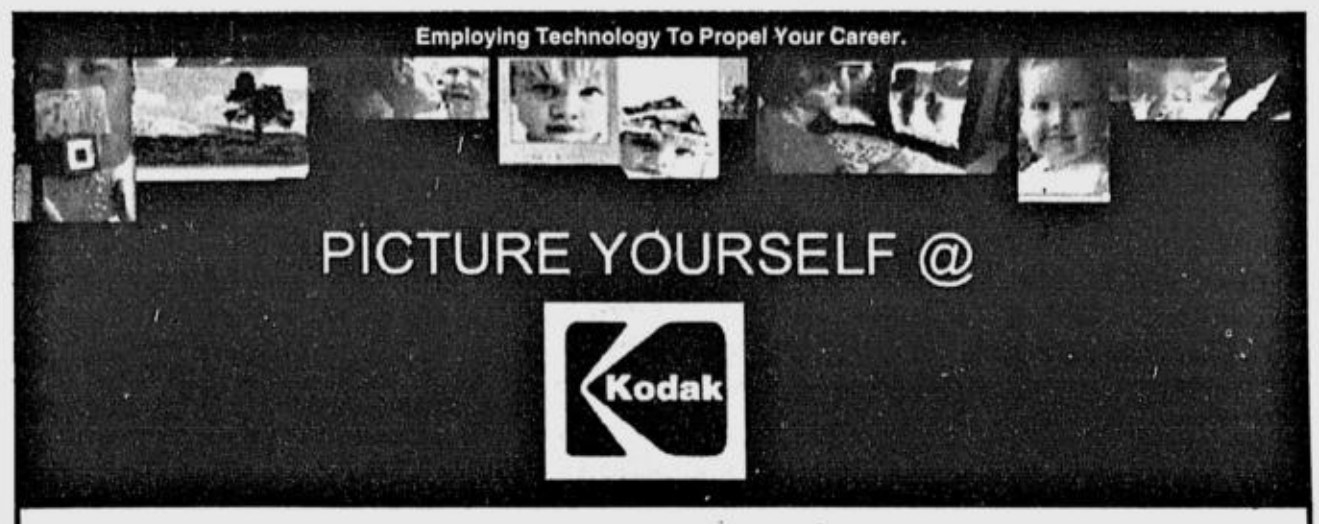
The main responsibilities include promoting diagnostic products to physicians, medical technologists and medical/industrial institutions, undertaking territorial coverage, and efficiently managing assigned market areas. To qualify, you must hold a B.S. Medical Technology/B.S. Public Health degree with good academic record. You must be articulate, personable, competitive and must have a mature disposition. As a condition for employment, you must be willing to be assigned ANYWHERE in the Philippines.

How to Apply

Due to the urgency of these requirements, please submit your resumé with recent passport size picture and contact telephone number no later than *Friday, 14 May 2004* to:

The Human Resources Department - Application Code___
Roche (Philippines) Inc.
2252 Don Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City.

Only qualified applicants will be called for interview.



KODAK is the World's Leader in Imaging and a reliable source of world-class products that combine the benefits of traditional photography with high-technology digital applications for the commercial, healthcare, entertainment, and document imaging fields.

In continuing with Kodak's ever-exciting evolution, we are in search for creative and dynamic individuals prepared to face the challenges of the digital millennium.

ACCOUNT MANAGER – Health Imaging

- A graduate of an Applied Science (e.g. Radiography) Business or Marketing course
- Preferably with experience in sales of medical equipments or diagnostics
- Knowledge in the field of radiology is a strong advantage
- Preferably knowledgeable in computers, both software (windows applications) and hardware (networking and digital peripherals)
- Has excellent interpersonal skills and can immediately establish rapport with a broad range of people
- Fluent in both oral and written communication

ACCOUNT MANAGER – Commercial Imaging Group

- A graduate of Sales, Business, Marketing or any other related course
- Has at least 3 years experience in account management preferably in IT environment
- Computer proficient and with good knowledge in computer software or programming
- Has excellent interpersonal skills and can immediately establish rapport with a broad range of people
- Fluent in both oral and written communication

Kodak is full of diverse opportunities for continually building and reinventing your career. The best time to join our company is now!

Send your comprehensive resumé, transcript of record, and 2x2 picture to:

KODAK PHILIPPINES, LTD.
Human Resources Department
2247 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

RGE AGRIDEV CORPORATION

One of the leading Philippine seafood processor and exporter of world-class quality seafood products to the United States and other markets has an urgent need for an:

AUDIT ASSISTANT

The minimum required qualifications are as follows:
- Male, not more than 25 years old
- Accounting Graduate, preferably CPA
- Good Moral Character
- With experience in Audit, Banking and Financial Accounting
- Based in Manila

HR AND ADMINISTRATION SUPERVISOR

Responsible for delivering value-adding and cost-effective Human Resources Management, Purchasing and Office Administration services for the Cebu Plant and other supply stations.

The minimum required qualifications are as follows:
- Graduate of Psychology, Industrial Engineering or any related course
- Credited with at least 5 years work experience in Human Resources Management; at least 2 years supervisory experience
- Full competence on employee relations, compensation and benefits administration, training and development, performance management, and recruitment
- Computer literate, particularly in Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- A team player with excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Possesses management and leadership competencies

Applicants are requested to submit personally, mail, or e-mail a comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 picture and transcript of records to the address indicated below not later than May 15, 2004. Kindly indicate your latest compensation package and contact phone numbers for immediate processing.

Cebu Plant Address	**: Sugeco Compound, Suba Masulog, Basak, Lapu Lapu City 6015, Cebu, Philippines**	**Head Office Address**	**: Unit 2810, Jollibee Plaza Bldg. Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center Pasig City**
Telephone No.	**: (032) 495-6365**	**Telephone No.**	**: (02) 637-0036**
E-mail Address	**: rge.cebu@pacific.net.ph**	**E-mail Address**	**: rge.manila@pacific.net.ph**

Sales Consultants – BMW Automobiles

BMW Philippines Corporation is looking for motivated individuals to join our Authorized BMW Dealers in **Metro Manila** and soon in **Davao**. Here is a great way to get ahead and develop a career with the leading premium car brand in the Philippines today.

Personal qualifications:

- An enthusiastic, target-oriented and self-confident personality.
- Excellent communication skills.
- A strong customer orientation.
- Residents of Davao preferred for our provincial opening.

A few years experience in selling premium products or services will be an advantage. Good driving skills are required.

Previous applicants need not apply.

Interested applicants are urged to email or send their comprehensive resume to

hr@bmw.com.ph or Human Resources Department
BMW Philippines Corporation, 15/F PhilamLife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Please send your comprehensive resume before May 16, 2004.

BMW Philippines

www.bmw.com.ph

Sheer Driving Pleasure

WANTED : MOTHERS

WITH YOUNG CHILDREN (ages 0 to 12 years old)
who want to raise the IQ and EQ of their child

If you:
- are willing to work 8 to 10 hours a week around your children's schedule or your current occupation.
- are willing to work part-time presenting to parents with young children.

We offer:
- a FREE seminar on how to develop your child's potential for maximum IQ and EQ.
- a FREE hands-on orientation using our multilevel and multisensory materials.
- an income of P4,000 for 5 to 6 presentations.
- a chance to own the programs for your children at almost NO COST.

WE ALSO NEED PEOPLE ABLE TO WORK FULL TIME - INCOME P30,000 up

Bring your biodata to:

504 Galleria Corp. Ctr. Robinsons Galleria EDSA cor. Ortigas	**OR**	20th Flr. Citibank Center 8741 Paseo de Roxas Makati City
May 11 - 2:00 p.m. or May 12 - 9:00 a.m.		May 11 - 9:00 a.m. May 12 - 2:00 p.m.

★JOB OPENING!!!★

OFFICE STAFF & MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
Male/Female, Single/Married, College graduate of any course, w/ or w/o experience. Apply in person with resumé & any original credentials.
Hiring will be on Tuesday to Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, May 11 to 15, 2004
APPLY AT:
Suite 808, West Tower, Tektite Phil. Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City
(Back of Megamall near San Miguel Bldg.)
Note: Qualified applicants will start immediately.
Look for Mr. Noel Isidro for interview
"attach this ad to your resumé"

IMMEDIATE HIRING
Account Executive
(Newly Graduate)
Call 562-02-79/80
2749 New Panaderos St., Sta. Ana, Manila

JGC Philippines, Inc.

Excellence...our Practice...our Commitment

JGC Philippines, Inc. (JPHIL) is one of the leading companies in Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) in the Philippines. Our Company is involved with various projects worldwide such as United Kingdom, Oman, China, Kazakhstan, Libya, Iran, Thailand, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and South East Asia.

We would like to announce our job openings and invite prospective applicants to fill the following engineering positions in our Manila Operations Center:

COMMISSIONING ENGRS (Code: CME)

- Graduate of any eng'g course
- At least 15 yrs. work exp. in planning, procedure preparation and field work for pre-commissioning/ commissioning work on refineries and petrochemical plants.
- With knowledge in safety execution plans.

SR. STRUCTURAL ENGRS (Code: SBSE)

- Bachelor's Degree in Eng'g; At least 15 yrs. working exp. in eng'g design of petrochemical-related facilities.
- Can prepare Basic & Detailed Design eng'g for Structural that includes preparation of calculations, specifications, material requisitions and BOQ. Can operate structural calculation softwares like STAAD, etc.

SR. ARCHITECTS (Code: SARC)

- At least 15 yrs. working exp in eng'g design of petrochemical-related facilities.
- Can prepare Basic and Detailed Design Eng'g for Architectural. Includes preparation of specifications, material requisitions and BOQ.

PIPING ENGINEERS (Code: PPE)

- Graduate of any 5 yr. Course preferably ME
- With 5 to 20 yrs. related exp. in piping design & preparation of piping layout or arrangement in onplot or offplot gas & oil facilities.
- Ability to perform efficient & effective design quality control check against design data & vendor requirements.
- With knowledge in PDS intergraph 3D eng'g & associated tools would be an advantage.
- Ability to interpret stress analysis result & output evaluation.
- Experienced in field eng'g work such as preparation of field change, line checking & material control.

BOILER ENGINEERS (Code: BOE)

- Male/Female; 27 to 32 years old
- Graduate of BS Mech'l or Chem. Eng'g course. Pref. w/ license.
- Minimum of 5 years work exp. in either combination of Basic Design, Mech'l design, Manufacturing, Inspection, testing & operation of various types of combustion eqpt. such as Boilers, Furnaces, Flare Stacks, Incinerators, Hot Oil Heaters, Deaerators, SRU equipment for power & refinery plants.
- Work exp. in combustion eqpt. detail eng'g design and/or vendor package type job including review of ITB documents, proposals/ estimation work, planning of manpower, manhour & work schedule, preparation of specs., requisition & tech. bid evaluation.
- Knowledgeable in computer software like MS Word, Excel, AutoCAD release 14 or 2000.
- Must be willing to travel on both local and overseas job assignment.

SR. HVAC ENGINEERS (Code: HVAC)

- Bachelor's Degree in Eng'g; At least 10 yrs. working exp. in HVAC design which includes plumbing & fire fighting systems particularly buildings for Oil/Gas, refinery or substation bldg
- Can prepare flow diagram, layout, calculations, MTO, specifications & design criteria.
- Must be willing to be assigned in overseas assignments.

SHIPPING COORDINATOR (Code: SPGCR)

- Bachelor's Degree in Eng'g; At least 3 yrs. working exp. material transportation and shipping document control.
- Able to establish traffic execution procedure, will arrange export packing and shipping activities.
- With knowledge in Import and Export Laws.
- Has good negotiation and coordination skills.

PIPING DESIGNERS (Code: PDE)

- Graduate of any 5 yr. Course preferably ME
- With 3 to 6 yrs. exp. in developing 3D design model for oil & gas eqpt. namely pumps, heat exchangers, drums, columns, & other related equipment facilities.
- Applicants who have no 3D design exp. but have related in piping design will be considered.
- Ability to read P&ID & interpret data sheets, eng'g drawings, & vendor drawings is necessary.
- Knowledge in piping design & piping layout or arrangement would be an advantage.

MATERIAL CONTROLLERS (Code: MCTL)

- Graduate of any engineering course
- At least 3 yrs work exp. in warehousing, inventory control, material control, planning & logistics control.
- With knowledge in shipping documentation and procedures.
- Willing to be assigned in local site projects.

JMAINT ADMINISTRATORS (Code: JMAINT/A)

- Graduates of BS Administration , Accounting or equivalent.
- At least 3 years work related experience in preparation and implementation of Field Accounting Procedures and administrative tasks for project consistency in relation to the company and project policies, contractual terms and the local rules and regulations.
- Must be able to deal effectively with people from different levels.

EXPEDITER (Code: EXPDR)

- Bachelor's Degree in Eng'g; At least 3 yrs. working exp. in purchasing and/or expediting with technical knowledge in Piping, Electrical and Instrument materials.
- Able to prepare expediting reports and sub-ordering status

Previous applicants need not apply

Interested applicants are requested to apply ONLINE.
Visit our website: www.jgc.com.ph or send your resume to:
Human Resources Department, JGC Building, 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines.

Please attach a cover letter or ad clipping for mailed resume.

All applicants must have excellent written and oral communications skills, pro-active, good working attitude & computer literate.

Attractive fringe benefits, above- industry salary standards, overseas assignment opportunities*, company housing, and a very challenging career in engineering await qualified applicants.

**not for employment abroad.*

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Editor

You will assist the editor-in-chief in managing the editorial team and handling technical editorial operations and ensuring optimum content quality for the online, print and CD-ROM products.

The successful candidate must have excellent English language skills with professional-level business writing expertise. You are required to have a degree in Journalism, Communication, or English with at least 5 years of editorial experience in a similar position. You must also have the ability to manage a team, meet tight deadlines, and have strong attention to details. Exposure to international media content will be an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package, business travel opportunities and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested individuals should send their resume and contact details to any of the following;

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

SEAOIL PHILIPPINES, INC.

SEAOIL

The leading independent player of the deregulated petroleum industry invites you to be part of its dynamic organization:

Shipping Technical Maintenance / Safety Officer

- Graduate of Naval Architecture or Marine Engineering; preferably with license
- At least two-year experience in ship building and repair
- Background in preventive maintenance of tankers, vessel licensing, permits and classification
- Preferably knowledgeable in AutoCAD

Web Designer / Graphic Artist

- Graduate of Information Technology, Fine Arts or related course
- Knowledgeable in web development and print design (as shown in his portfolio)
- Background in advertising and corporate communications an advantage
- Can work long hours and under minimum supervision

Finance Associate

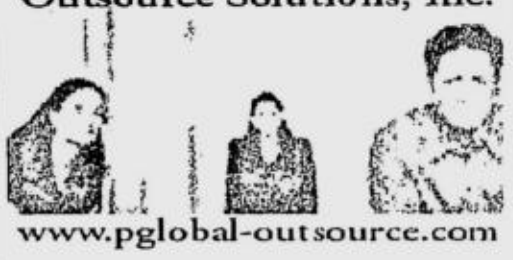
- Graduate of Accounting, Banking and Finance, Management of Financial Institutions or related course
- Experience in treasury work and importation activities for a petroleum company
- Background in liaising with banks, brokers, insurance and appraisal companies
- Computer-literate and can work under minimum supervision

Dispensing Pump Technicians

- At least college level
- With 3-year experience in troubleshooting and repairs of fuel dispensing pumps (any brand)
- Willing to travel; preferably with professional driver's license
- Computer-literate

Send your resume to:
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
G/F The Meridien Building, 29 Annapolis St.,
Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 723.52.72
e-mail: recruitment@seaoil.com.ph
website: www.seaoil.com.ph

Pacific Global Outsource Solutions, Inc.



www.pglobal-outsource.com

Send application letter/resume

TO:
MAKATI ADDRESS:

BORDERS
GE Philippines Bldg.,
2291 Pasong Tamo Extn.
Makati City, Philippines

Or email us at:
info@pglobal-outsource.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

"ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION PACKAGE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH"

Pacific Global is a medical transcription service company located in the heart of Metro Cebu.

We are presently seeking an experienced medical transcription professional to fill the position of Production Manager.

Our ideal candidate must possess at least 2-3 years working transcription experience and skills in:

* managing and training people
* verbal & written English communication
* problem solving and team building

LAWYERS

WITH 1 TO 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN LITIGATION AND GOOD WRITING SKILLS NEEDED BY LAW FIRM BASED AT THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE CENTRE IN ORTIGAS. GUARANTEED MINIMUM YEARLY INCOME P270,000.

Call Joyce 6346487 to 89 for Appointment.

IT DEVELOPER/SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Nexus Business Solutions Plc, a British managed International Management Services Group is looking for a Developer/Support Specialist to provide the IT services required to support our continued growth in the region.

Based in San Fernando, Pampanga, this new position requires strong software development skills with a minimum of 2 years project development experience using MS Access and MS SQL Server. Experience of managing small company networks and developing in the .net environment will be an added advantage.

A good salary and excellent working conditions will be offered to the successful candidate.

Only suitably qualified applicants need apply.

Apply by email with resumé & photograph by latest 17th May 2004 to: richard.johnson@nexuspic.com

An International Company is in need of talented and hardworking individuals to fill the position of:

MARKETING ADVISOR

- College graduate
- Must be a resident of Las Piñas/Cavite
- Pleasing personality
- Must at least be 23 to 35 yrs. old
- Aggressive, with initiative
- Preferably female
- Must be computer literate.

Experience in Healthcare Services is an advantage.

Handcarry, fax or submit resumé with photo to:
The HRD Dept.
Look for SAN LUMAIN
MEDPRO INTERNATIONAL INC.
1705 East Tower PSE Centre, Exchange Road,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No.: 6877332 / 6876423

RGMC GROUP — Fashion Division

FOR OUR GROUP'S EXPANSION PROGRAM, WE ARE IMMEDIATELY HIRING MOTIVATED PROFESSIONALS FOR THE POSITION OF:

1) Fashion Designer
   a. Female 23-28 years old
   b. A graduate of fine arts or fashion related course
   c. With creative skills in drawing, sketching and product coordinating.
2) Visual Merchandiser
   a. Female 23-28 years old
   b. Preferably a graduate of fine arts or fashion related course.
   c. With creative skills in drawing, sketching and product arranging Knowledgeable with computer graphic programs (Adobe/Corel)
   d. With at least 2 years experience in fashion visual merchandising and window display
3) Assistant Marketing Manager
   a. With at least 2 years marketing background and experience in consumer or fashion products Graduate of a 4-year marketing or management course.
   b. Female 24-30 years old
4) Area Sales Coordinator
   a. Graduate of a 4-year course Prel management related course
   b. Female, Not more than 28 years old
   c. With experience at a sales or management position.
5) Boutique Management Trainee
   a. Female, 23-28 years old at least 5'4" Pleasing personality and good with client relations and oral communication skills both in English and Tagalog and is an effective leader.
   b. Honest, hardworking and energetic. Must have ability and initiative to manage a retail store.
   c. With experience at a sales or management position and graduate of a 4-year course Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila
6) Sales consultant
   a. Female at least 5'2", 18-25 yrs old. At least high school graduate
   b. Pleasing personality and willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila

REQUIREMENTS RECENT 2X2 ID PICTURE AND RESUMÉ
PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUMÉ TO
RGMC GROUP OF COMPANIES
96 Kalantad St., Quezon City, Metro Manila
(Near National Food Authority and PCSO)
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- *M/F, not more than 25 years old*
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Tel Nos.: 705-1813/721-0276/724-3473

WANTED

Account Managers
- Male/Female, 20-30 years old
- Computer Science Graduate
- Pleasing Personality
- will handle existing corporate accounts

Office Assistants
- good communication skills
- computer literate

Call: 2453800 / 2455300

WANTED

Administrative Assistants

Female, single, age 21-30
College graduate, Bachelor degree
Com. Sci, Business, Engineering, Economics
Speaking & written English proficiency

Office: Tektite Tower, Ortigas Center, Pasig
Send resumé with picture & transcript of records to cascade_78@yahoo.com

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PR Account Officers

Preferably with 2-3 yrs experience servicing clients in a PR or Ad agency.

With above-average oral and communications skills in English, he/she can articulate ideas clearly. Creative and highly inquisitive, he/she possesses leadership qualities and is able to formulate PR plans and strategies and when necessary, write press and broadcast releases.

Exposed to current lifestyle and entertainment news, he/she has the interest and sophistication to appreciate how new trends can be applied to his/her tasks for clients.

Writers

Preferably with 2-3 yrs. experience writing for a PR or Ad Agency. With above-average oral and communications skills in English., he/she must be highly creative and a team player willing to work long hours and under pressure to beat all deadlines. Writing samples must be submitted with resume.

Send your resume w/photo to
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e-mail to rpa@rpa.com.ph

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- organized, efficient, resourceful, motivated & assertive
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ACCOUNTANT
- Accounting Graduate with at least 2 years experience
- CPA preferred but not essential
- with strong work ethics and integrity

HR ASSISTANT
- Graduate of BS Psychology with at least 2 years experience
- Good communication & leadership skills
- Computer literate, especially EXCEL
- With experience in personnel administration

Interested? Please send your resumé with picture to:
The Managing Director
THE CANADIAN KITCHEN COMPANY, INC.
1 C.J. Caparas St., Bgy. Ugong, Pasig City
telefax: 671-2674; 671-4495
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GRAPHIC ARTIST
* College Graduate
* Knows CorelDraw 11 & Photoshop 7
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ACCOUNTANT
* Must be computer literate
* Preferably knows Quickbooks
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142 Road 3, Pagasa, Q.C. Tel. # 927-1776
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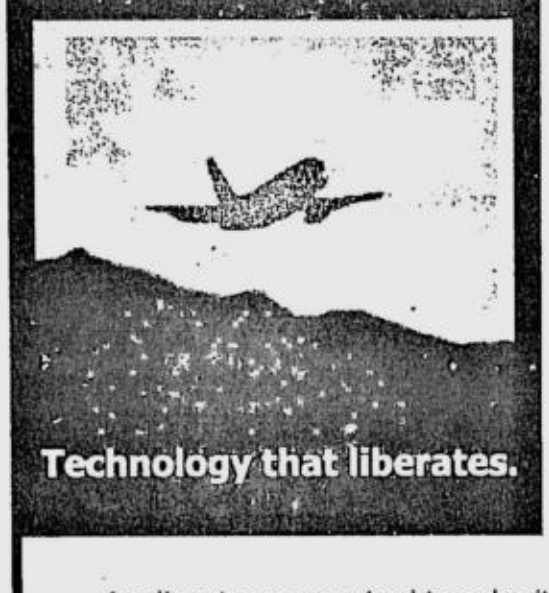

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To handle general administration such as purchasing, vendor relations, facilities maintenance, workspace/ building issues, security and housekeeping (janitorial) services, events coordination, travel arrangements, administrative support to executives, office layout planning & implementation, office services, records managements, supplies administration, and other related activities.

Candidates must be College graduates. With 3-8 years related experience. Must be willing to put in long hours. Highly flexible to exceed customer expectations. Strong verbal and written communication skills; can develop and effectively communicate policy. Proficient in MS Office (Outlook, Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

Applicants are required to submit resume, transcript of records and recent picture. Note that priority will be given to candidate with complete requirements.

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OUTBOUND SALES AGENT
- With salary of P120,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must have excellent **Tagalog-English (Taglish)** conversational skills
- Must have completed at least 2nd year college
- 18 to 27 years old, with outgoing personality
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Basic computer knowledge
- Fresh graduates are welcome

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Global 9, Inc. Lapanday center, 2263 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City via MRT, take Magallanes/Mantrade Station
or SEND YOUR RESUMES WITH ID PICTURE TO: marcia@nytelecon.com
or mail at P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village, Makati City

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Qualifications:
- Male or Female - Single or Married
- Holds a degree in Social Science in any related field
- At least five years professional experience
- Demonstrated record or experience in communication, administrative support, planning strategies, and/or human relation skills
- Strong knowledge of computer hardware/software in a Windows environment
- Speaks, reads and writes English fluently

Office Address: **Cordillera Area Office**
2nd Floor, JDT Bldg.
Poblacion East
Lagawe, Ifugao

Interested applicants may send their application letter and comprehensive resumé not later than May 21, 2004 at CCF-Philippines Office, 8th Floor Strata 100 Bldg., Emerald Avenue, Pasig City.

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Cathedral Heights, Q.C.

Job Vacancies

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Registered Nurse preferably with Master's Degree or Units in Nursing and with at least one (1) year exposure in teaching or hospital

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Preferably with Master's Degree or Units and with teaching experience in the following related field of expertise: **English, Mathematics, Mass Communication, Computer Science, Information Technology, Hotel & Restaurant Management, Accountancy and Business Administration.**

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Licensed Electrical Engineer or Architect with at least 3 years work experience, knowledgeable in mechanical & autocad drawing & drafting, quality take-off & cost estimates, computer literate, with strong leadership and proficient in both oral and written communication.

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé with photocopy of transcript of records and one recent picture to Human Resources Development Office, Trinity College of Quezon City, #275 E. Rodriguez, Quezon City or email it to hrd@tcqc.edu.ph. **NOT LATER THAN MAY 15, 2004.** Qualified applicants will be notified through mail

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5. With a pleasing personality
6. Not more than **35 years old**
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8. Computer literate.
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Newly graduates are also welcome to apply.

Interested applicants are requested to apply personally:
Monday to Friday 8:00 to 11:00
1:00 to 4:00
Saturday 8:00 to 11:00

Please bring the following:
- Application Letter
- Comprehensive resumé with contact telephone number
- Recent 2x2 photo
- Transcript of Records

HRD OFFICE
Immaculate Heart of Mary School
Dominic Savio St., Better Living Subdivision
Parañaque City
Tel. No. 823-4109

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Is seeking self-motivated, results-oriented individuals with excellent organizational and interpersonal skills for the following job requirements:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- *Male / Female*
- *22 to 30 years old*
- *College Graduate (Graduates of PLM, PUP an advantage)*
- *Must possess excellent communication skills*
- *A minimum of 1 year sales experience*
- *Able to drive and with valid driver's license an advantage*

CUSTOMS PROCESSOR
- *Male, 21 to 25 years old*
- *College Graduate*
- *Able to drive and with valid driver's license*
- *With at least a years experience in custom processing*

Interested applicants may bring their resume, 2x2 photo and transcript of records and may apply in proper business attire at:

JUGRO TRANSPORT INT'L PHILS CORP.
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION
3818 Mascardo St. cor. Pasong Tamo St., Makati City

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CAMERAMAN
- 25-35 years old
- preferably with experience

REPORTER
- preferably with experience in research, field reporting
- must be creative
- can work under pressure
- with strong personality

Interested applicants are requested to fax their resumé at 415-8188, attention to KAREN or ALBERT

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The biggest advantage we have over our competitors is our people. When you join RMH, you'll work at providing traditional inbound contact center services or supporting Internet-based customer contact activities for our clients.

Here at RMH, it's our goal to hire the best talent available, and train our people to become experts in customer care. We invest in your success with incentive programs that encourage top performance and keep you challenged to grow an exciting career with us! We invite you to explore the positions available and contact us to join our team.

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- With at least 2 yrs experience managing an account in a call center industry
- Strong orientation towards customer service
- With strong teambuilding skills and proficiency to influence change in a fast paced environment
- Excellent analytical and communication skills

INBOUND CUSTOMER SALES AGENT

- With previous telemarketing/inbound sales experience
- With strong customer service orientation
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be able to work varied hours, weekends and holidays

CUSTOMER CARE AGENT

- With strong customer service orientation
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be able to work varied hours, weekends and holidays
- Excellent analytical skills

INBOUND SALES TEAM MANAGER

- With at least 2 yrs experience managing an account in a call center industry
- Strong orientation towards customer service
- With strong teambuilding skills and proficiency to influence change in a fast paced environment
- With previous outbound/inbound sales experience

TRAINER

- With previous training experience in a call center or related industry
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Results focused

PAYROLL AND BENEFITS ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course
- With at least one year experience in compensation and benefits area
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedule, holidays and overtime as needed

Team building activities
Night-outs
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Suggestion Box
One on one Coaching Session
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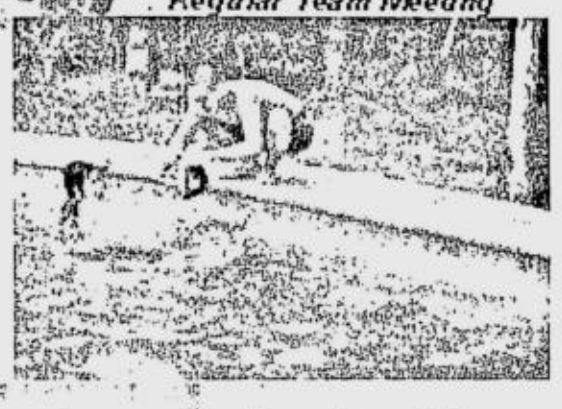

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INTERNAL AUDITOR (IA)
- Preferably Male, not more than 33 years old
- Accounting Graduate with 2 to 3 years Accounting and/or Auditing experience
- To be assigned in Parañaque
- CPA license would be an advantage

MERCHANDISING ASSISTANT (MA)
- Male/Female, 21 to 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- With at least 1 year experience in sales inventory analysis/merchandising/ warehousing/store operations

SECRETARY (S)
- Female, 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- Good written and spoken communication skills in both English & Filipino
- Computer literate, systematic & orgranized
- Preferably with sales background

STORE SUPERVISOR (SS)
- Male/Female, 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- With at least 2 years supervisory experience in retail operations

SALES ASSISTANT (SA)
- Male/Female, 21 to 26 years old
- At least 5'3" for female & 5'6" for male
- Good oral & written communication skills
- To be assigned in Makati/Ortigas/ Parañaque/Alabang

TELEMARKETERS (TM)
- With experience in Sales & Marketing
- Good written and spoken communication skills

CASHIER (SC)
- Female, 20 to 30 years old, at least 5'3"
- With at least 6 months experience in POS
- To be assigned in Makati/Ortigas/ Parañaque/Alabang

WAREHOUSE MANAGER (WM)
- Male, 30 to 35 years old
- At least 2 years experience in managing warehouse operations
- To be assigned in Parañaque or Pampanga
- Effective, efficient, and organized

WAREHOUSEMAN (WH)/STOCKMAN (SM)
- Male, 22 to 30 years old
- At least 1 year experience in warehouse or stockroom operations

ENCODER (ER)
- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably Marketing/Advertising/Computer Course
- At least 6 months relevant experience

WAITER (W)
- Preferably Male, 21 to 26 years old
- At least 5'6" in height with at least 6 months experience in fine dining service
- Personable and customer-oriented
- To be assigned in Makati

COOKS (CK)
- Male/Female, 20 to 30 years old
- At least 6 months culinary experience in hotels or restaurants
- College degree is an advantage

JOIN a winning team! Send us your letter of application, resume with 2x2 ID picture, contact particulars, and photocopy of school transcript to:

Remember to indicate the position code on the upper right side of the mail envelope. We will be calling all qualified applicants for interview.

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To promote the new line of Rodenstock optical frames and lenses.

Qualifications:
- Male, Female, 22 to 28 years old
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or e-mail: lens_phil@yahoo.com

JOB Market

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- Graduate of any business or computer related course a MUST
- Fluency and Flair in English oral and written communication a requisite
- Work experience in customer service or technical support gives you an edge
- Able to demonstrate analytical and logical behavior effectively

Submit your resume on or before May 17, 2004
Please indicate position code

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- Preferably Male, 25-30 years old; License not required but an advantage.
- With at least 2-3 years related work experience in a manufacturing environment.
- Must be articulate, hardworking, resourceful and results-oriented.
- Willing to be assigned in the Bulacan area.

Interested applicants are requested to apply personally to:

THE CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION
80-82 Roces Avenue, Quezon City

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The Organization

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Philippines grants the wishes of children afflicted with life threatening illnesses to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy. An affiliate of the largest and most respected wish-granting organization in the world, the foundation is run by dedicated volunteers who strive to make a difference in the lives of sick children and their families.

Administrative Officer

The position will provide administrative support by performing tasks in, but not limited to, administration, bookkeeping, marketing and training. The position will also act as office secretary reporting directly to the President.

- Perform administrative and secretarial tasks
- General maintenance of the office
- Assist in wish-granting activities or special projects
- Training opportunities abroad
- Salary range P8,000-10,000 depending on experience

Candidate Requirements

- College graduate
- Ability to work under minimum supervision
- Good moral character
- Self starter and organized with a heart for children
- Willingness to work long hours
- Strong interest in social or volunteer work
- Must have at least 1 year working experience; experience with a reputable charity-NGO or International organization a major plus
- Good communication skills, oral and written
- Highly dynamic and able to deal with different personalities and issues in a professional manner
- Knowledgeable with MS Office applications

Candidates must send an application letter, resume, 2x2 photo & transcript of records not later than May 16 to:

Make-A-Wish Foundation Philippines
3/F I-Care Building
Legaspi corner Dela Rosa St.
Makati City

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Share the Power of a Wish®

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific
Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Procurement Assistant

The position is primarily responsible for attending to efficient procurement administration, deliveries, payment control, and database maintenance.

Reporting Arrangements
The position directly reports to Head, Procurement, OAGS-PR.

Description of Responsibilities
The position is specifically responsible for:

- **Procurement Process** - attends to the efficient procurement administration by researching on items/supplies availability and reliable suppliers (qualified local and/or foreign suppliers), negotiating with suppliers (e.g., terms and conditions, product quality, pricing), liaising with requisitioners and suppliers on item specifications and other details/ arrangements, checking and verifying Environment, Safety and Health (ESH)/ISO related attributes, as well as drafting/preparing and reviewing purchasing documents and other supporting documents for conformity with stipulated ADB guidelines and requirements;
- **Deliveries and Payment Control** - participates in the timely delivery of ordered items by monitoring deliveries/ shipments and regularly sending follow-up correspondences to concerned parties; participates in the timely and efficient payment of procured items by monitoring the payment process in conjunction with other Departments/ Divisions for compliance with agreed terms and ADB procedures and practices;
- **Database System Maintenance** - attends to the efficient maintenance and upkeep of the database and file systems by filing all documents and records and inputting data/ transactions into the procurement system under the Oracle environment;
- **Administrative Support** - attends to the smooth operation of the section by providing administrative support such as extracting/ generating data and other reports, and typing various correspondences; and
- **Others** - performs other duties as may be assigned by the position's immediate supervisor, specialist and/or director.

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- Bachelor's degree in Commerce, Business Administration or other relevant course;
- at least 3 years work experience;
- familiarity with procurement planning (procurement lead time, determining material priorities and delivery dates), procurement control (proper recording and timely processing of requisitions), and implementation of procurement related programs (market research, sourcing of suppliers, etc.);
- basic knowledge of policies, guidelines and procedures in procurement of supplies, equipment, goods, and other items prevalent in multilateral institutions;
- preferably has working knowledge of the procurement system under the Oracle environment; and
- basic knowledge of ADB-adopted computer applications such as MS Word, MS Excel, MS Powerpoint and Lotus Notes.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS03-209(4)-OAGS-PR** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http: //www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: **CS-jobs@adb.org** by **21 May 2004.**

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

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ADVANCING MARINE CONSERVATION

Project Seahorse Foundation for Marine Conservation is seeking an individual to fill the following position:

SENIOR BIOLOGIST

We require an independent and mature individual to lead a biological research program in support of the Foundation's conservation actions. He/she will have had experience in designing and conducting field-based, biological research as well as data management and analyses. He/she will also be responsible for managing and mentoring a team of young, enthusiastic biologists. The position will also involve integration of the biological and social research programs and networking with other NGOs, academe and government agencies.

Qualifications: M.Sc. or Ph.D. in Biology; background in marine biological research with a publication history; outstanding organizing and communicating skills, solid data management skills and statistical capability; good written and oral communication and computer skills; strong commitment to the environment; experience in working with foreigners; fluency in written and spoken English and Tagalog is a must.

Monthly Salary Range: PhP 21,000 – 29,000

Applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resumé, and transcript of records to:

The National Director
Project Seahorse Foundation for Marine Conservation, Inc.
222 First Street Happy Valley Subdivision,
Guadalupe, 6000 Cebu City, Philippines

Email : apb_ps@mozcom.com; psfmci@mozcom.com
Fax : (032) 254 1390
Tel. : (032) 262 8032 & (032) 262 8033

Previous applicants need not apply. Deadline of submission not later than June 30, 2004.

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- Male or Female
- 23 to 28 years old
- CPA or Banking and Finance or Economics graduate. Preferably with MBA degree/units
- At least 2 years experience in financing, money market and foreign exchange trading from a reputable bank or financing institution
- Licensed Treasury Professional/Trader

The candidate must have a working knowledge on foreign exchange and interest rate risk management, familiar with BSP circulars and possesses in-depth skills in analysis of financial statements & economic evaluation of investment options & financing alternatives. An experience in using Value-at-Risk will be an advantage.

The candidate must have excellent oral & written communication skills, knowledgeable in Windows-based software applications, must be self-directed to exercise authority and decision, adaptable to the changing demands of the times and must possess strong entrepreneurial spirit and team orientation.

Qualified applicants may send or mail their resumé, TOR & 2x2 photo to
The Recruitment Officer
Petron MegaPlaza 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. 1200 Makati City
Or e-mail their resumé to: HRMD@petron.com
Indicate in Subject Line: "Treasury Assistant"

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably major in Journalism, Mass Communication, BS Statistics, Economics, BS Math
- 1 year experience as researcher

Responsibilities:
- Gather statistics, reports, backgrounds and other reference materials for Editorial
- Write special reports and packages information for publication

CREDIT CLERK

Qualifications:
- College graduate with background in Finance or Accounting
- 1 year experience in credit and collection functions

Responsibilities:
- Assist Credit Assistant in facilitating credit approval of all advertisement
- Receive, check and process publication orders

PMS ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- College graduate, preferably Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 1 year experience in Performance Management System or related function
- Knowledge of Performance Management System
- Knowledge of basic computer operations
- Competencies: Communication Skills, Writing Skills, Presentation Skills, Analytical Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Process Management, Problem Solving and Planning & Organizing.

Responsibilities:
- Assist in the preparation of the position clarifications, (job descriptions) competency profiling assessment and reviews accomplishment reports.

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

STEPS (Santo Tomas E-service Providers)
The IT department of the University of Santo Tomas, is in need of **IT PROFESSIONALS** for its
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Applicants should possess the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree of any IT related course
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- Proficient in oral and written communication skills
- Highly trainable, creative, with good interpersonal skills and of good moral character
- Familiar with Microsoft Windows Operating Systems, PC Troubleshooting and Network Operations.
- Basic knowledge in Project Management, Systems Analysis and Systems Documentation
- Experience in Information Systems Project Implementation and/or Help Desk Services is an advantage.

Qualified applicants may send their Letter of Application, Resumé with Picture (2X2), Transcript of Records, and other credentials to:

Santo Tomas E-Service Providers
University Computer Center
Rm. 106 Mezzanine Floor Main Building
University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila
Telephone No.: 781-1814 local 8311, 731-6933
e-Mail: steps@mnl.ust.edu.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

- **Medical Technologists**
  With experience and computer literate
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Send or come personally to:

HEALTHLAB INC.
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Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village Makati City
Tel: 8671140 Telefax: 8671141
Attention: Ms. Len A. Montevirdo

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- Female, 20-25 years old
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- Willing to do field work

Apply personally or send application letter, comprehensive CV with 2x2 photo & TOR at:

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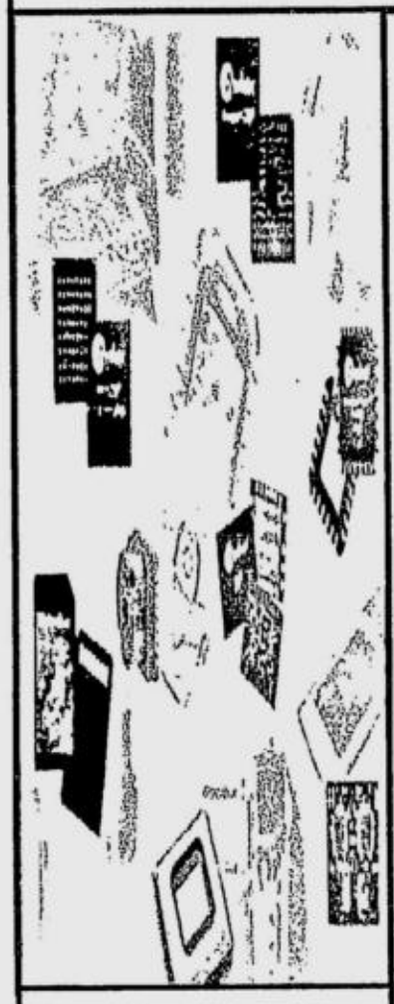

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- Engineering graduate (preferably EE, ME, ECE)
- With at least 2 years experience in a semicon environment
- Must be immersed in either FOL (WB & DA) or EOL (mold, mark, DTFS)

MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS (ME)

- Engineering graduate, preferably ME or EE
- Skilled in maintaining and trouble-shooting assembly equipment
- Preferably with experience in preventive maintenance

TECHNICIANS (TECH) - *line sustaining/ maintenance*

- Technology course graduate
- With experience in a semicon environment
- Able to set up and troubleshoot test or assembly equipment, specifically FOL (WB & DA) or EOL (mold, mark, DTFS)

TEST TECHNICAL DEV'T ENGINEERS (TDE)

- Responsible for the introduction of new customer's equipment, processes, and procedures for IC Testing
- Functions as a Project Manager that coordinates the project team tasks and responsibilities
- Provides the manufacturing group technical support and guidance on process implementation and analysis

TEST ENGINEERING R&D ENGINEERS (ERD)

- Must be able to provide technical expertise for the creation of test programs.
- Able to interact well with different test engineers and suppliers
- With strong supervisory and communication skills

TEST RF PRODUCT ENGINEERS (RFE)

- Responsible for RF test development/product support
- Knowledgeable in test methodology and equipment
- Must be analytical, computer literate, and well-versed in basic electronics and logic circuits

CUSTOMER SERVICE ENGINEERS (CSR)

- Engineering graduate
- With PC or process engineering experience in a semicon environment
- Excellent communication, planning, and presentation skills

ANALYST/ PROGRAMMERS (AP)

- Computer Science/ Engineering or ECE graduate
- Must have very good programming skills (eg, in RPG, Visual Basic, C++, HTML, etc)
- Preferably with experience in systems analysis/design
- Knowledge in SQL and MS Access is an advantage

Please send your resumés indicating the position codes found in the parentheses.

mjuan@amkor.com

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Interested applicants may apply personally with resumé or e-mail us at:

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Rosario, Cavite 4106
(046) 437-1188/(02) 857-8210
personnel01@hrd-s.com

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- Must possess Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/ Information Technology
- At least 2 years experience in VB, Crystal Reports, MS SQL Server, ASP
- Must have good analytical and logical skills
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Send your resumé / application with recent picture to E-mail:
tdevera@plastimeronline.com
or
Mail to: 29 T Santiago St., Bo. Canumay
Valenzuela City
ATTN: MS. THEA

INDUSTRIAL SALES EXECUTIVES

- College Graduate; Preferably Engineering
- 23 to 25 years old
- Aggressive, willing to do field work and can handle major accounts, preferably with industrial sales background.

Please send resumé to:
Rm. 619 BPI Bldg., Plaza Cervantes,
Binondo, Manila

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A stable and fast growing company engaged in a retail industry needs the following personnel:

STORE OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Female, not more than 35 years old
- Preferably a graduate of a 4-year course from UP, Ateneo or La Salle University
- Willing to travel and do field work
- Minimum of 5-7 years experience in Retail Operations
- Can demonstrate multi-store supervision skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Willing to work long hours

BUYER/MERCHANDISER

- Female not more than 30 years old
- Must posses college degree in Fashion Merchandising or other related course from UP, Ateneo or La Salle University
- Preferably with experience in buying shoes
- Willing to travel and do field worked
- Knowledge in Merchandising and Inventory Management, a plus
- Willing to work long hours, fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.

Qualified applicants are requested to send or hand carry your comprehensive resumé with 1x1 photo, transcript of records & other credentials to the address below.

727 JP Rizal St., Concepcion, Marikina
Fax No. 942-0783
E-mail: joslemendrez@yahoo.com

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Male (5'7) or Female (5'3); 25-30 years old, preferably single, graduate of HRA/HRM or a business management course; fluent in oral and written English, pleasing personality with good social and people skills; must have at least 3 years managerial experience in the restaurant industry; knowledge in PnL an advantage

STORE SUPERVISORS

Male (5'7) or Female (5'3); 25-30 years old preferably single graduate of HRA/HRM or a business management course; fluent in oral and written English, pleasing personality with good social and people skills; must have at least 2 years supervisory experience in the restaurant industry.

CASHIERS

Female (5'3), 21-24 years old, preferably single college graduate, fluent in English, fair and clear complexion, pleasing personality with good people and social skills

SERVICE CREW

Male (5'7) 21-25 years old, female (5'3) 21-24 years old, preferably single, at least 2 years of college, fluent in English, fair and clear complexion, pleasing personality with good people and social skills

EXPORT SALES OFFICER

Male/Female, 25-28 years old, graduate of Customs Administration or any business course, excellent in oral and written English, with good people and social skills, at least 2 years sales experience in export business

You may apply personally at Warehouse 5 Pines St. cor. Sheridan St., Mandaluyong City, or email your resumé at hrd@figarocoffee.com

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Please call tel. # 781-99-91 & 740-84-95 or Cell Phone # 0918-7132377 & 0917-8265465 for immediate interview. Applicant should bring resumé, academic records, and testimonials from previous employers (if any).

IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALESMAN (Sales Trainee)

- College graduate of any 4-year course
- Male between 20 to 30 years old
- With selling experience is an advantage

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- Female between 20 to 25 years old

DRIVER (Truck/Van Driver)

- Professional license holder
- License Restriction Code 2 and 3
- At least High School Graduate

Please visit us personally with your resumé at our office
For Interested Parties Residing in Laguna:
Warehouse E1B, Daystar Industrial Complex, Pulong Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Tel. No. (049) 8375756 / (02) 5208541

For Interested Parties Residing in Cavite:
1) Warehouse # 18, KB Industrial compound, Nlog 3, Bacoor, Cavite. Tel. No. (046) 8701264
2) Lot 31C, New Cavite Industrial City, Brgy. Manggahan, Gen. Trias Cavite. Tel. No. (046) 4020378

WANTED - ACCOUNTANT with knowledge of QUICKBOOKS or another accounting software. Resume to Fax : 6396803 or apply@zmgifts.com

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MARKETING &/OR GYM MANAGER

of existing fitness center with at least 5 years experience in the business. Qualified applicant awaits good income. Apply at Providence Tower 2471 Leon Guinto cor. Estrada, Malate, Manila. See lobby guard.

Admin. Asst.

- Male/Female w/ experience in HRD or a CPA
- At least 25 years old
- College graduate
- Excellent in computer
- with good moral character

Please e-mail your resumé - cristina@dchl.org
Or fax to: 638-9366

Just piety?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THERE are workplaces that are out and out Christian in that they do not hide their devotions from the public. Workers gather to pray first thing Monday morning and last thing Friday afternoon (as regularly as schoolchildren would have the flag ceremony); they would have monthly fellowships as well, reading the bible and sharing faith experiences in addition to their working hours. Thus, they are coworkers and a community of believers as well.

There are also those where all work stops—like supermarkets where cashiers silence their registers, janitors pause from mopping floors, meat vendors turn off the power cutters right in the middle of slicing salami—at Angelus time or for the "three o'clock habit," the devotion to the Divine Mercy. And, of course, you can't miss all those religious pictures and images practically forming miniature shrines in some corner of many offices or shops. On the other hand, you'll find workplaces, too, where even the mention of the word God is virtually forbidden, not for some atheistic purpose but rather out of an intention to keep religion and business out of each other's way.

But whether or not external signs of piety are present in the workplace, the gauge of our authenticity as followers of Christ is love—our love for one another. If our deeds do not reflect this love, public prayers and little altars in our workstations merely serve as a parody of our religion. If in addition to our display of religiosity at work, we are also kind to one another and righteous in our work conduct, then others may come to know that Jesus' death on the cross, indeed, has not been in vain. (*E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

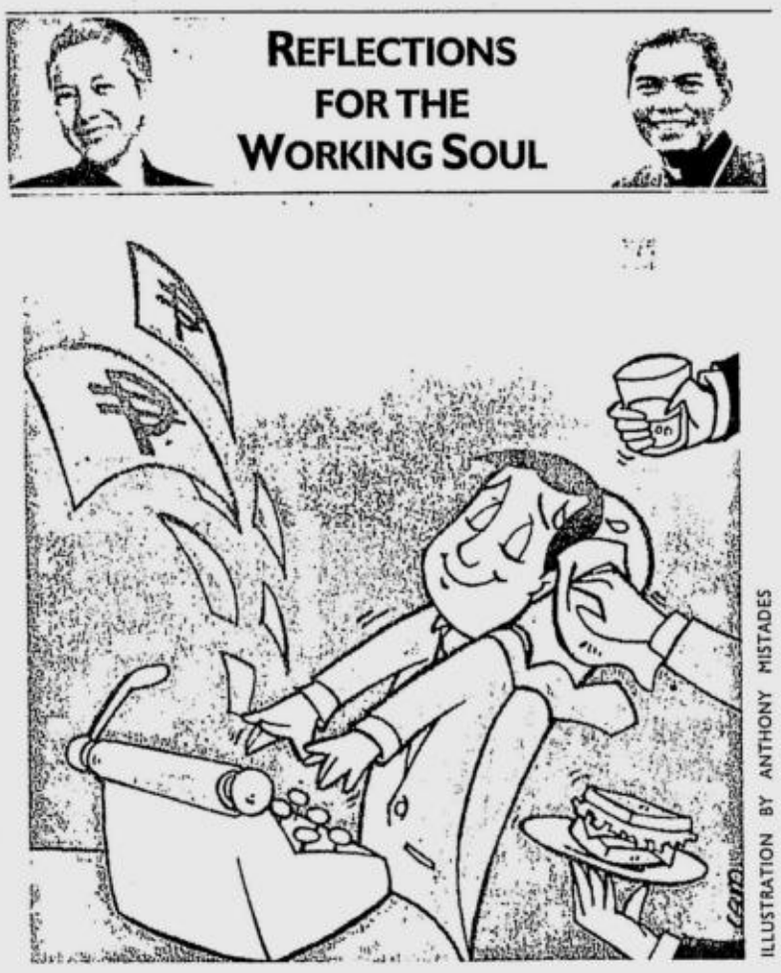

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Gospel: John. 13: 31-35

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Love the workers

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

IN THE MEETING of the National Directors of Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) centers in Southeast Asia held in Cebu City, representatives of a union of seafarers who were on strike reported on the plight of their members suffering from what they claimed as unfair labor practice of the management. They showed much anger and bitterness against the management as they tried to get our sympathy for their cause. They made me think of the so many workers all over the world in similar situations. Would the "new commandment" Jesus gave to His disciples to "love one another," make any sense in the workplace?

To love the workers means for management to hold the welfare and dignity of the employees in greater consideration over profit. It requires the management to provide workers sufficient wage and benefits, which may at times be more than what the minimum wage law stipulates and which certainly minimize the rate of the return of investment of the company. Jesus' commandment of love would seem to demand from the management more "investment" on persons, the workers, rather than on machines and equipment which for some investors would mean bad business.

Many companies and businesses, however, which have placed high premium on the care and attention for the workers' well-being, attest to their profitability and success due to the "loving response" of the employees as shown in their dedication, commitment, and efficiency in work. Moreover, the workplace, where mutual love and respect reigns in everyone, is itself worth the investment. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

Grade school teacher wants to teach ...

From page 6

colleges and universities but also try to apply to new schools that are looking for competent faculty who will accept their rates. This may be a hidden opportunity for you to shine and actually make a significant contribution to the school and the students.

3. Your resume might not be targeted well to its audience. From your letter, I see that you are into three fields namely, Social Sciences, Theology and Education. You may want to conduct an informal "research" into the departments that house these disciplines in your targeted schools. They might have varied needs and qualifications. When you apply, highlight the characteristics in your resume that have meaning for them. For example, if you've done any Social Science research in the past, it would make sense to highlight this when applying to a Social Sciences department but it would not make a difference if you were applying to be a faculty for the Theology department.

4. You may be focusing only on one field. We now live in the information age where the more one knows, the better are her chances for success in this world. I would say that you made a good choice in studying three different fields. My eldest daughter and I were recently discussing how taking both a Liberal Arts and a Commerce course has served her well. She is able to bring together the strengths of both and find a synergistic balance between her creativity and technical competence. Apply to all three departments to hedge the risk that you may be turned down. This also means that if you were to shortlist 10 schools, it would be good to choose the schools with all three departments in them.

These are four things that you could immediately implement in doing your job search. On your other point about not being qualified without an MA, I would say that this is a necessary precaution utilized by the accepting schools to ensure the quality of their education. What you could do is to try to be part of the faculty while doing your MA. You could probably even get a faculty discount for your MA tuition and get teaching load at the same time. However, the pay for this minimal teaching load might not be enough for your everyday needs. It might mean that you need to get concurrent employment but it is an in-road to teaching at the university level.

Also, how do you feel about research? As I understand it, this is the differentiating factor between teachers in the secondary and tertiary levels. It is also a competence that might augment your teaching salary. This would mean, however, being affiliated with a research agency. It would be great if the university or college also houses research entities and is open to giving these types of jobs to its faculty.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Your commitment to contribute to tertiary education is admirable, and please accept my heartfelt thanks for persevering to succeed in this field. We need more teachers like you who continue to improve themselves.

We in Ancilla will pray for you. We will pray that you may succeed in this job search and that your success might in turn inspire others in the academe to be their best selves as they shape the future of our country through our youth. More power to you and keep us updated. Please write in again and tell us what happens.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ ancilla edc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

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(for VISMIN Area)

JOB CONTENT:
- Responsible for production and management, organizing and controlling the production activities, ensuring efficient use of equipment, materials and manpower and formulates policies and procedures to review and update the manufacturing operations standards.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Must have at least 7 years cumulative work experience in plant operations in a managerial capacity in food processing
- Licensed Engineer, Male/Female between 35 to 45 y/o
- Experienced in HACCP, GMP and ISO 9000
  Experienced in refrigeration & cold storage facilities

BRANCH MANAGERS

JOB CONTENT:
- Responsible for the implementation of marketing and sales plans of the branch, achieve high product quality and availability, and ensures continued patronage through efficient and quality customer service.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Must have at least 3 years significant work experience in the same capacity gained from a food business industry

STORE SUPERVISORs / MANAGEMENT TRAINEEs
(for Makati, Manila & Quexon City existing & soon to open branches)

JOB CONTENT:
- Responsible for the implementation of marketing and sales plans of the branch, directs and supervises all basic activities of branch personnel to ensure total customer satisfaction.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Must have at least 1-2 years cumulative work experience in the same capacity gained from a food business industry
- Preferably graduates of BS HRM, Male/Female, 23 to 32 years old

APPLICATIONS ENGINEER

JOB CONTENT:
- Responsible for conducting project management, process review and selection, strategic capacity planning to ensure maximum operating efficiency.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Must have at least 5 years cumulative work experience in manufacturing preferably in the food industry
- Industrial Engineer, Male/Female, not more than 35 y/o

HR SPECIALIST

JOB CONTENT:
- Responsible in assisting the department in the timely and accurate service delivery of manpower requisitions, employee relations and benefits, training and development, compensation and other related tasks.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Must have at least 2-3 years cumulative work experience in the same capacity preferably from a food business industry or manufacturing firm
- Preferably a graduate of Behavioral Science or Psychology course

EMD TECHNICIANs

JOB CONTENT:
- Responsible for the Maintenance and repair of all heating, ventilating and air conditioning and refrigerating units of the stores including building and amenities

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Must have at least 2-3 years cumulative work experience in maintenance works dealing with HVAC, refrigeration, genset. building electrical and controls, plumbing and welding
- Graduate of vocational/technical course preferably HVAC or refrigeration technology or its equivalent
- Must know how to drive w/ license

Walk-in Schedule is every Thursdays and Fridays from 9 to 3 pm

SELECTION CRITERIA:
* Able to effectively communicate with all levels in the organization
* Demonstrate adaptability, innovativeness, sound judgment under varying workloads and time pressure
* Results-oriented, trustworthy, well organized and able to command respect
* Computer literate

Qualified applicants are requested to send comprehensive resume with relevant credentials and current picture to:

RED RIBBON FOODS CORP.
HRAG - Employee Care Services Department
No. 1180 - 2F Doña Beatriz Bldg.13th St., New Manila, Quezon City

We will only respond to qualified candidates . Previous applicants need not apply

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Look for Atoh Bencelao

Closing date: Friday, May 14, 2004

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Stephen Levine, Molecular Biologist

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Computer Literate
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ACCOUNTING CLERKS
QUALIFICATIONS
Male or Female
Not more than 30 years old
Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
or Accounting related course
Computer Literate

CASHIERS
QUALIFICATIONS
Male or Female; 20-30 years old
Graduate of any 4-year course
Pleasing personality, alert and patient
5'3 for Female & 5'5 for Male

Applicants may apply personally at:
EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT
Ground Floor, EHA Building
Duty Free Fiestamall
Ninoy Aquino Ave., Parañaque City
Application starts May 11-14, 2004
(Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

REQUIREMENTS
Printed Resume, 1 pc. 2x2 picture
Photocopy & Original of NBI Clearance
(less than 1 year old),
Birth Certificate & Transcript of Records

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This position is responsible for developing and managing the Consumer Products business in a prescribed territory and/or group of accounts/ distributors of an area by: (a) gaining and maintaining distribution, (b) achieving the annual objectives of volume, profit, and growth for his accounts, (c) identifying opportunities for profitable growth in the short and medium term, (d) planning/conducting/ implementing custom-made trade and consumer-oriented in-store promotions, (e) implementing category management and securing effective shelf and in-store presence, and (f) ensuring the timely collection of receivables.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- With 2 to 4 years experience in handling GMA key accounts/distributors; preferably in a multinational consumer goods company
- Has strong strategic business planning skills with an excellent sales track record
- Valid driver's license

Send your application letter, comprehensive resumé with picture not later than May 14, 2004 to:

The Human Resources Department
S.C. JOHNSON AND SON, INC.
6371 Estrella Street, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City
or send through e-mail at: *cslee@scj.com*

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METRO GAISANO

Store/Fast Food Managers
Store/Fast Food Supervisors
- Bachelor's degree graduate
- Minimum of 3 yrs. work experience in same capacity from medium to large scale retail or food chain industry
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills

Marketing Officers/Assistants
Ad & Promotions Officers
- Female, Marketing or Mass Communications graduate
- Preferably with experience in same capacity or in public relations work
- Articulate, outgoing and good interpersonal skills

Mechanical Engineers
Electrical Engineers
- Male, license holder
- Minimum of 3 yrs. work experience in managerial or supervisory capacity
- Substantial exposure in preventive & corrective maintenance of mechanical equipment from medium to large scale industry (for ME) / well-versed in industrial wiring and motor control (for EE)
- Strong leadership, planning and organizing skills

Industrial Engineers
- BSIE graduate from reputable school
- Systematic, well organized and good communication skills
- Keen interest in research work

Jr. Auditors
Accounting Clerks
- BS Accountancy graduate with above average scholastic records
- CPA preferred for Auditors
- Analytical, organized and team player
- Proficiency in oral and written communication

Please send application letter, resumé with recent 2 x 2 picture, and photocopy of transcript of records to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
Metro Gaisano
Mabini Street
(Between McKinley Parkway & C5 Road)
Fort Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila
or
THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
Metro Gaisano Buying Office
658 Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila
e-mail add: mgaisano@mozcom.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

FAMILY DRIVER

- Male, 30-35 years old with professional driver's license.
- Presentable looking.
- Good moral character.
- Can give references.
- Has driven both manual and automatic transmission vehicles.
- Willing to stay-in.
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THE RECRUITMENT MANAGER
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❖ ***PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.***

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Responsibilities:
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- With excellent customer service orientation and positive sales attitude;
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Fresh graduates with the drive to pursue a career in sales are also welcome to apply.

Interested applicants can look forward to a rewarding commission aside from regular salary.

Please send your resume with an ID photo to:
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INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
3/F Limketkai Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila 1502
● E-mail: hrd@ics.com.ph ● For information on ICS visit www.ics.com.ph

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strongly driven and highly motivated

OFFICE ASSISTANT (OA)
20- 24 yrs. old
single male/ female
a graduate of BS Accountancy
fluent in English
naturally friendly and enthusiastic
strongly driven and highly motivated

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at least a high school graduate
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Submit your resumé (with picture) to:
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c/o MS. EMILY FENIX
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(From 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. only)

the store withnoname.

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- Experience in hotel, housekeeping or janitorial service an advantage
- Strong Leadership and Interpersonal skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Willing to work long hours
- Computer literate

Successful candidate can expect a very attractive compensation and benefit package

Please mail comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 ID photos and other credentials to:

Box KA-014-02CS
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
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Ermita, Manila
E-mail: Prod_classified@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: CS

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GASOLINE ATTENDANTS - M/F, aged 18-25, High School graduate, honest, polite & good people skills

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ACCOUNTING CLERKS - M/F, aged 19-25, College graduate with Accounting major, computer literate
TELEMARKETERS - M/F, aged 19-25, College graduate, speaks Good English, good in customer service
DATA ENCODERS - M/F, aged 19-25, College graduate, good computer knowledge, quick encoding skills

1. Interested applicants are advised to bring their bio-data with 2x2 photo
2. Please handcarry your bio-data on or before May 17, 2004.

For Field-based positions, look for Ruszel Drequito or Tom Dalangin
For Office-based positions, look for Mitos Esperanzate, Athena Reyes or Eric Reporte
ATM-PAI, Unit 1610 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 6815 Ayala Avenue cor. HV dela Costa, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 817-3315; 812-2654; 812-2653 Telefax: 894-5897 email : atmpai@operamail.com

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Leading PR Agency Looking for PR Executives & Staff Assistant

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If you are interested, please call **Carrie** at tel. no. **891-3396** or **891-3485**.

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- With at least one-year work experience in General Accounting
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Successful candidate will be responsible in maintaining and administering NSI Customer Network Installation. Also, He/She will provide Technical Support for the Sales Team to meet customer requirement for demos, Technical Presentations, Network Designs, Estimates and Project Implementation.
- Licensed E C E /E E , Computer Engineering
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- At least two (2) years experience as Technical Support or Network Administrator or Project Implementation Manager/Engineer.
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B. TECHNICAL SALES CONSULTANT (Code: TSC)
Shall source out potential clients with LAN requirements. Shall conduct research on different industries to cover. Shall conduct sales, product presentation and demo.
- Preferably Graduate of Marketing or Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE) or Electrical Engineering (EE) Courses
- With sales inclination and with at least 1 year sales work experience
- With strong verbal and written communication skills
- Willing to do field works and work on extended hours.

Interested applicants may send their resumé with picture to:

Unit 301 3/F Aguirre Bldg.
812 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City
Or E-mail at eborbe@nsi.com.ph

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

JOBMarket ONLINE — VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How do you work with a jerk?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've got a coworker who is a total jerk. I hate working with him, but we're on a project together and I have no clue on how to deal with him.

Clowns to the left, Jokers to the right

The Prime Minister of Latvia recently announced the formation of an "anti-absurdity" bureau to deal with excessive government "foolishness" and the "laziness of civil servants." Currently in Riga, the capital, they're getting about 10 complaints a day.

Outside of Latvia, unfortunately, we're stuck dealing with our jerks on our own. And far too often Human Resources and our bosses don't help at all. I've listed strategies for dealing with a jerk at work below. For more, turn to Bev Kaye and Sharon Jordan's book "Love It, Don't Leave It" (Berrett Koehler, 2003).

What about the person makes them a jerk? Ms Kaye includes a list of jerky behaviors including: intimidating, belittling, micromanaging and acting sexist or racist. Start by trying to figure out what exactly about the jerk's behavior is driving you crazy.

Can you get advice on how to deal with him? Look around your workplace to see if there are any people who've figured out how to work with your jerk. Offer to buy them a cup of coffee or lunch to pick their brains and learn strategies for coping with the jerk.

Can you talk to the jerk? Have you ever had a family member or friend tell you that something you did really bothered them? And it wasn't something that was relatively easy for you to stop doing? Maybe your jerk will just cut it out if you talk to him about it. Proceed with caution however; you don't want to become the jerk by lecturing him.

Can you change your behavior in order to change the jerk's? Most people respond favorably to getting more compliments, being given more control or being asked for their opinion. Come to think of it, this stuff works with people who aren't jerks. On another level, maybe you are doing things to bring out the jerk in them—trying to control their response, keeping them in the dark, not soliciting their feedback, etc. Explore what you might be able to do to make them less of a jerk.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Can you just accept him? I once saw a cartoon where one woman says to another, "He's perfect, now I'm trying to change him." Which raises an interesting question: can you just accept this person and not be focused on how much of a jerk he is?

Can you avoid him? I know you said that you have to work on a project with him but can you still minimize the time you spend with him? For example, can you do most of your discussions via e-mail? Or do you need to move to another assignment, one that won't require that you interact with him?

Follow these tips and avoid being jerked around in the future.

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

Conflict at work

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse.

Is your pulse rate a bit too fast due to stress? Is it slowing down due to asphyxiation from traffic fumes? Or is it just beating happily to the rhythm of life? Your thoughts, feelings and beliefs on various workplace issues close to your hearts, when shared, can contribute to transforming our places into more human-friendly places to work in.

This "pulse" check will be conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

Winners from respondents of last month's survey are: **Ma. Luisa C. Bagsik** and **Mona Liza M. Pestano**. Please get your gift packages from Tere Cruz of Philippine Daily Inquirer, 897-8808 local 554.

1. In your organization, which parties are usually in conflict? (choose one)
   a. Managers with their subordinates
   b. Managers with each other
   c. Workers from one department vs another department
   d. Management and labor
   e. Workers with customers
   f. Others _____

2. What causes these conflicts? (choose all that applies)
   a. They simply don't like each other
   b. Differences in how they go about work
   c. Personality differences
   d. Miscommunication
   e. Inadequate policies or systems
   f. Others: _____

3. How are conflicts resolved in your organization? (check only one)
   a. They're not--just ignored and left as is.
   b. They're not—people involved eventually resign.
   c. People involved calmly talk it over.
   d. Through a third party (i.e., a manager or the HR Department or union)

For the following questions, please indicate the number corresponding to your agreement with: 1 — strongly disagree; 2 — disagree; 3 — neutral; 4 — agree; 5 — strongly agree

4. Conflict is disruptive and should be avoided
5. Conflict is necessary for organizational growth.
5. In our company, people are taught skills to handle conflict.

Name: _____
Gender: _____ Civil Status: _____
Nature of Job: _____
Company Name: _____
Industry: _____
Tel/Mobile/Email: _____

Mail or fax this form or email-text your answers to:
People at Work Pulse
Ateneo Center for Organization Research & Development (Ateneo CORD) 2nd Flr Hoffner Bldg.
Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights
Quezon City
Fax No. (632) 426-6065
Email: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph

Or text answers to (0920) 831-9522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or email address.

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My TRABAHO

Former DOLE secretary cites factors in minimum wage fixing page 7

The ultimate layoff survivor

by Roberta Chinsky Matuson

YESTERDAY'S hustle and bustle has been replaced by a strange quiet. Gone is the familiar smell of microwave popcorn. Food rations can be found here and there, but the office candy bowls—overflowing in past days of abundance—have been removed. You realize now that you will have to forage for your own food if you are to survive.

You pop your head above your cubicle and see a sea of empty desks. You have an eerie feeling that you have been transported to another place in time. You can hear some huddled team members whispering, strategizing about their next move. Who's in; who's out? Who will be kicked out next? As the dust settles, you realize you are one of the lucky survivors. Or are you?

Surviving a layoff

Getting through a layoff is similar to being one of the castaways on TV's reality-based "Survivor." At first, everyone feels sorry for the people who are asked to leave. While layoff casualties may not go on to fortune and fame like their "Survivor" counterparts, they may find there is more than one path to happiness.

But what about the survivors? If you get immunity from the layoff, consider the following:

Form alliances

To be the ultimate survivor, you will need to have some allies. Now is the time to really be a team player. Assist your coworkers when called upon. Or, better yet, don't wait to be asked—volunteer your services. Become the person everyone wants to have on his or her team.

What's in it for you? The opportunity to learn firsthand how office politics work. Your odds of surviving another round of layoffs will also increase substantially.

Learn new skills

You will soon find yourself involved in projects that have little or nothing to do with your job. You'll have some choices to make: You can do the minimum required to get things done, or you can view this as an opportunity to get hands-on experience in areas that will make you more valuable to your current employer. In these tumultuous times, when you could suddenly find yourself on the open market, it can't hurt to learn new skills.

Don't expect a pay raise

Now that you're doing more work for the same amount of money with the unlikelihood of receiving another pay raise for some time, you'd be crazy to stay here, right? Not necessarily. Are you in it just for the money? If the answer is yes, then get out. You'll just be miserable. However, if you are in it for the long run and you see this as an opportunity to gain more experience, then you might be setting yourself up for a nice promotion and raise down the road. While things may look a bit bleak today, they will certainly be brighter tomorrow. And the money will flow once again.

So don't rest on your laurels. The hardest part may very well be in front of you. It will take work to become the ultimate survivor, but at least no one is asking you to eat strange bugs. If people can survive in the deserted outback, surely you can survive in a nearly empty sea of cubicles. You might have to learn to cook your own afternoon snack, but in the end you will be a stronger person with yet another new set of experiences.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Grade school teacher wants to teach in college

By Tita D. Puangco

I WOULD like to teach in college. I do understand that in most universities and colleges, they hire faculty members with master's or even doctorate, as well as those who have an experience teaching in the tertiary level.

Although I am a relatively young teacher, I believe that I am equally as effective and efficient as those instructors. I have encountered some professors with graduate degrees but do not know how to teach properly. Likewise, I believe that elementary and high school teachers should be given the equal treatment in terms of respect from the teaching profession.

I graduated cum laude in 2002, with a degree of Bachelor in Secondary Education Major in History and Minor in Religious Education and School Guidance at a prestigious university. I have earned 37 MA units in Guidance Counseling, as well. Furthermore, I passed the Licensure Board Exam for Teachers with a rating of 81.20 percent. I have four years working experience teaching Social Science and Theology to high school students.

I believe that I have an extensive and varied background working as a teacher which, when combined with my education as well as my personal skills and interests, could be very valuable to the academe. I am a hardworking individual and I enjoy challenging work.

I hope institutions of higher learning will also take the time to consider the qualifications of elementary and high school teachers. I hope to merit your most favorable response. God bless.

Teacher In Transition

Ask Rizza

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

Thank you for writing to us about your concern. Education is always a key issue to our nation's progress. And at all levels, we have to demand quality from our educators as well as equip them with the necessary support to fulfill their duties well.

From your letter, I gather that you would like to teach at the collegiate level but so far, you have not been given the opportunity to do so. Though this may seem like an education problem, it is also first and foremost a job search effort and thus, you may apply job search techniques to increase your chances for success.

Let's take a look at your situation and try to understand how the techniques apply. You may be getting refusals due to several reasons:

1. The institution might already have a full faculty. This refers to would the number of teachers in that department and the mix of senior and junior faculty. Usually a department plans for its HR requirements with a horizon of five to eight years. This includes succession or seniority, academic specialization, administrative requirements and the number of students that department services. If this is the problem, it will be a waste of time applying to such a department. And the refusal will have nothing to do with you.

2. You may be targeting too few schools. Just like a lot of things in this world, you may have to plant a lot of seeds just to grow a few trees. Try looking into different schools and shortlist around 10, making sure that these 10 are differently positioned in the education market. For example, it is natural to choose the top three

GRADE/4

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WORK

Contributing Editor: Regina Galang Reyes

How do you work with a jerk?

DEAR WW: I've got a coworker who is a total jerk. I hate working with him, but we're on a project together and I have no clue on how to deal with him.
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What about the person making them a jerk? Ms Kaye include list of jerky behaviors including intimidating, belittling, micromanaging, and actions that are sexist or racist. Start by trying to figure out what's causing the jerk's behavior. Are they stressed, overworked, or just plain crazy?

Can you get advice from others on how to deal with him? Look to your workplace mentor, if you have one, or ask a trusted colleague if he has ever had to deal with a jerk and what he did to survive.

Finally, ask yourself if you've ever had a boss or friend tell you that your behavior is bothering them. And if you did receive such feedback, what did you do to change your behavior?

Sometimes, the only way to stop doing Mr. Wrong is to walk away. If you've tried everything and nothing seems to work, it may be time to start looking for a new job.

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Which parties are usually in conflict?

- Boss and subordinate
- Co-workers with each other
- One department vs another department
- Management and labor
- Employees with customers

Please fill that appropriate box and return to the address below.

Which of the following statements is appropriate to you?

- I will eventually resign
- I will ask for a transfer to another manager or the HR department
- I will stay

Please indicate the number that corresponds with your level of agreement with the following statements: strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree

- Conflict should be avoided
- Conflict is functional and promotes organizational growth.
- I have the skills to handle conflict

Please email your answers to:

Ateneo Center for Organization Research & Development
Hoffner Bldg.
Ateneo de Manila Heights

Write topic suggestions and feature position on the subject to the address above.

Grade school teacher wants to teach in college

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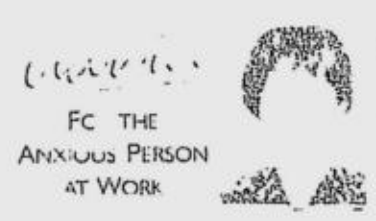

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GRADE 4

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Former DOLE secretary cites factors in minimum wage fixing

LAGUESMA - PHOTO BY R. G. REYES

My TRABAHO

By Regina Galang Reyes

LABOR Day has passed but the issue of wage increases remain. In last week's "My Trabaho at dzRH," former Department of Labor and Employment secretary and lawyer Bienvenido Laguesma explained the basis for salary and wage increases. Here is a summary of the interview (translated from Tagalog):

Laguesma: For today's segment, let's give attention to the topic of wage increases. Although it is no longer Labor Day, it does not mean that the issue of wage increases will also no longer be discussed. Wage increases are always the concern of our workers.

My Trabaho: That's true. Even if it is no longer Labor Day, the topic of wage increases is always "hot," as hot as the weather!

Laguesma: We know that there is a process that is being followed in giving wage increases but the misgivings of our workers remain. If you recall, there have been repeated demands for the Wage Boards to be abolished because according to some, "they are not doing anything." But in fairness to the Wage Boards, there have been nine wage orders, in particular in the National Capital Region, ever since the Wage Boards were created last 1990.

My Trabaho: So does that mean the Wage Boards have helped?

Laguesma: Definitely, they have helped a lot although some say they have not addressed the issue of wage increases to the satisfaction of workers. Of the nine wage orders released since 1990, two were during the time of President Aquino, four during the time of President Ramos and two during the two and half years of President Estrada. There were two wage orders that were issued in the present administration, one last 2001 regarding the E-Cola. The earlier wage orders were mostly increases on the basic so we cannot blame the workers for expecting more because they feel the rising cost of living.

My Trabaho: So what are the bases for giving wage increase? And how much should the increase be?

Laguesma: Based on our existing laws, there are ten factors to consider in minimum wage fixing. First, the demand for living wages has to be considered. Second is the wage adjustment vis-à-vis the consumer price index, which refers to the prices of basic commodities.

My Trabaho: What is the third factor?

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FAX: (07) 371-8444

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RIGGER (20) — has experience in the job of lifting for construction project, below 40 yrs. old

GENERAL WORKER (25) — must be healthy and must not be color-blind, below 35 yrs. old
— **has experience in gas cutting using acetylene/ oxygen**

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS must PERSONALLY register and submit detailed resumé with job descriptions, certificates of employment/training, photo copy of high school diploma, photocopy of passport or authenticated birth certificate and one (1) piece 2 x 2 picture, at the Manpower Registry Division, Window H, Ground Floor, BFO Bldg., (formerly POEA Bldg.) Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City. Original copies of credentials must be presented upon registration.

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- Must have good oral communication skills, quick learner, hardworking and assertive

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Qualifications:

- Male or Female, not over 28 years old
- College graduate of any business course
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- With good oral communication skills, personable, confident, hardworking and assertive
- Can drive and with valid driver's license

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- Single, preferably licensed

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II. CORPORATE ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT OFFICER

- ✓ *minimum of 2 years corporate selling of insurance, pre-need, automobile, real estate*
- ✓ *willing to undergo training*

III. SALES DIRECTOR

- ✓ *minimum of 3 years sales management experience*
- ✓ *minimum of 2 years selling experience in insurance*
- ✓ *must have existing sales network*

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- ☑ HRM/HRD graduates preferred
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Former DOLE secretary cites factors in minimum wage fixing

LAGUESMA — PHOTO BY R. G. REYES

My TRABAHO

By Regina Galang Reyes

LABOR Day has passed but the issue of wage increases remain. In last week's "My Trabaho at dzRH," former Department of Labor and Employment secretary and lawyer Bienvenido Laguesma explained the basis for salary and wage increases. Here is a summary of the interview (translated from Tagalog):

Laguesma: For today's segment, let's give attention to the topic of wage increases. Although it is no longer Labor Day, it does not mean that the issue of wage increases will also no longer be discussed. Wage increases are always the concern of our workers.

My Trabaho: That's true. Even if it is no longer Labor Day, the topic of wage increases is always "hot," as hot as the weather!

Laguesma: We know that there is a process that is being followed in giving wage increases but the misgivings of our workers remain. If you recall, there have been repeated demands for the Wage Boards to be abolished because according to some, "they are not doing anything." But in fairness to the Wage Boards, there have been nine wage orders, in particular in the National Capital Region, ever since the Wage Boards were created last 1990.

My Trabaho: So does that mean the Wage Boards have helped?

Laguesma: Definitely, they have helped a lot although some say they have not addressed the issue of wage increases to the satisfaction of workers. Of the nine wage orders released since 1990, two were during the time of President Aquino, four during the time of President Ramos and two during the two and half years of President Estrada. There were two wage orders that were issued in the present administration, one last 2001 regarding the E-Cola. The earlier wage orders were mostly increases on the basic so we cannot blame the workers for expecting more because they feel the rising cost of living.

My Trabaho: So what are the bases for giving wage increase? And how much should the increase be?

Laguesma: Based on our existing laws, there are ten factors to consider in minimum wage fixing. First, the demand for living wages has to be considered. Second is the wage adjustment vis-à-vis the consumer price index, which refers to the prices of basic commodities.

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- ✓ *single, male/female, 25 -35 years old*

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- ☑ HRM/HRD graduates preferred
- ☑ 18 to 35 years of age

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sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
May 9, 2004

Willie Nep for Prez

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Nelson Rivera
Photo Illustration by Marlone Rubio

And why not? As Pinoys troop to the polls anew tomorrow, Willie Nepomuceno's enduring artistry and activism help make sense and fun of the madness, then and now

WILLIE Nepomuceno has a problem with Eddie Gil's nose, and he wonders if Boy Abunda's will do, in a pinch. Sitting in front of the dressing room mirror, he ponders the latex prosthesis, sculpted by his makeup artist for a work-in-progress (Boy, you have been warned).

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Keeping the Peace
by Jay Rojas, p.?

A Passion for Motherhood
by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz, p.4

The Mother of Olongapo
by Claire Agbayani, p.6

Willie ...from page 1

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Not just an impersonator

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"We become a vehicle for people who cannot ventilate on the issues," he says. "When I poke fun at a character, or at the issues related to that character, they feel vindicated. After all, these are the same issues that you hear about in the streets or coffee shops or read about in the papers. But when you put them onstage, they become more vivid, and people begin to see different possible interpretations."

That's as good a definition as any of what Willie does: By taking a real personality's characteristics to ridiculous extremes, he reveals more about them than they might be willing to reveal about themselves.

At the same time, he enjoys the court jester's immunity from the king's wrath. In fact, Willie has been doing his act for so long that politicians have come to expect it, and in many cases even welcome it.

Willie's first "victim" was Ferdinand Marcos, whom he started imitating during his days as a student radical at demos and rallies. One time, at an official function in Paoay, Imelda even sent some Blue Ladies with a message: "*Sabihin n'yo kay* Willie *'wag gayahin si* Sir."(Tell Willie to stop impersonating Sir.)

Naturally, Willie did his famous Marcos impersonation. To his surprise, Marcos called him to have their picture taken, during which he quipped, "Maybe you're a frustrated Marcos: You want to be Marcos No. 2!"

"A lot of people warned me of the possible consequences of impersonating Marcos, but I thought, 'He's an intelligent man, he must have a good sense of humor.' I'm taking him down from his pedestal and humanizing him. I'm sure he appreciates that."

Willie also had misgivings about doing Fidel Ramos, because there was talk that he was *pikon* (a bad sport). But at a Ramos press conference, the general came up to him and whispered, "Give me a high five." Thus, the comedian became the unwitting straight man in a photo op that landed on all the front pages the following morning.

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Even as a young boy growing up in small-town Marikina in the late '50s and early '60s, Willie had an inborn talent for mimicry. He would imitate the Reycard Duet, Bobby Gonzales, Sylvia la Torre, the Platters and other famous singers of the day to entertain his classmates at the Roosevelt Memorial School.

"I was a very shy boy," he admits. "Until now, I still experience stage fright before every single performance. I think it's only natural, especially for people who want every performance to be perfect. You fear for the acceptance of your material, or you're trying out something that might not work. Until that first burst of laughter or applause, then you know—*huli mo na* (you got it)."

Shy guy

Later on, Willie would impersonate Victor Wood, Eddie Peregrina, Darius Razon, Cocoy Laurel, Tirso Cruz III and Edgar Mortiz. But he would never volunteer, he had to be egged on by his friends before he would take the stage. Singing was just a way to work around his shyness.

He also exhibited a talent for drawing, which was why he decided to enroll in Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines after finishing high school.

In the late '60s, UP was already well on its way to becoming a center for free-thinking and radical politics. Voltaire Garcia was president of the student council, and the Kabataang Makabayan had just been formed. It was an eye-opener for freshman Willie.

"I had just come from the provinces—Marikina was still very provincial then—and I thought, it's great to be in UP, everything is open and there's free expression. Nobody cared if you wore slippers or a suit."

For someone who was schooled in a very traditional way, where the teachers were always right, it was liberating to be able to question those in authority. Like many of his generation, Willie gravitated toward the emerging student activist movement, forming the Marikina chapter of the Samahan ng Demokratikong Kabataan and joining the staff of the Philippine Collegian.

It was during street rallies that Willie once again found use for his talent for mimicry.

"Everyone was doing fiery speeches during demonstrations," he recalls. "My role was to present the issues in a humorous manner. If the audience laughed, it meant that they could relate to the issue you were trying to present."

What got the most laughs, he soon found, was when he did his impression of Ferdinand Marcos. Pretty soon, he was in demand as a performer at rallies, playing Marcos in activist street dramas.

After graduation, Willie applied for a job as a graphic artist at ABS-CBN. While waiting for an opening, he was persuaded to audition for Rollie Grande's hit gag show "Super Laff-in." He did his usual routine, imitating columnist *Ka* Doroy Valencia, Manila Mayor "Yeba" Villegas and of course Ferdinand Marcos. Director Ading Fernando kept a poker face throughout the audition, which was why Willie was floored when the following week's episode featured his audition tape in toto, in which he was introduced as "another Super Laff-in discovery."

"When I started out in show biz, I had a hard time because the criteria was different: You had to be tall and good-looking, talent was not necessary. My strategy to get into show biz was to imitate the famous, now I'm stuck in it. I can't sing in my own voice, I have to sing in other people's voices."

Talent on the run

Willie became a semi-regular talent at the network, trying to get noticed. Eventually, the network execs did take notice, and Willie was given his own radio program.

"I was told to report on Monday to learn the rudiments of operating a turntable, working the controls in the booth. That Saturday, Marines were guarding the radio station."

Martial Law had been declared, and as a student radical, Willie's first impulse was to go into hiding. For weeks afterward, he moved from house to house and slept with his boots on, in case he had to make a quick getaway. But the knock on the door he was dreading never came. Instead, he received a call slip: He was to guest on Nora Aunor's show "Superstar."

"I was afraid I would get thrown into jail if I surfaced, but I was already hungry, and no one had been to the house, so I went. Slowly, my career began to pick up again."Later, he found that a relative in the military had hidden his dossier.

In between guest appearances, during which he would imitate the likes of Freddie Aguilar, Mike Hanopol, Florante and the perennial favorite Marcos, Willie tried doing other things. He even spent a fulfilling stint as a management trainor at the Development Academy of the Philippines.

It was now the '80s, and he found himself a regular at "*Ito Yon, Ang Galing*," a noontime variety show on Channel 4,

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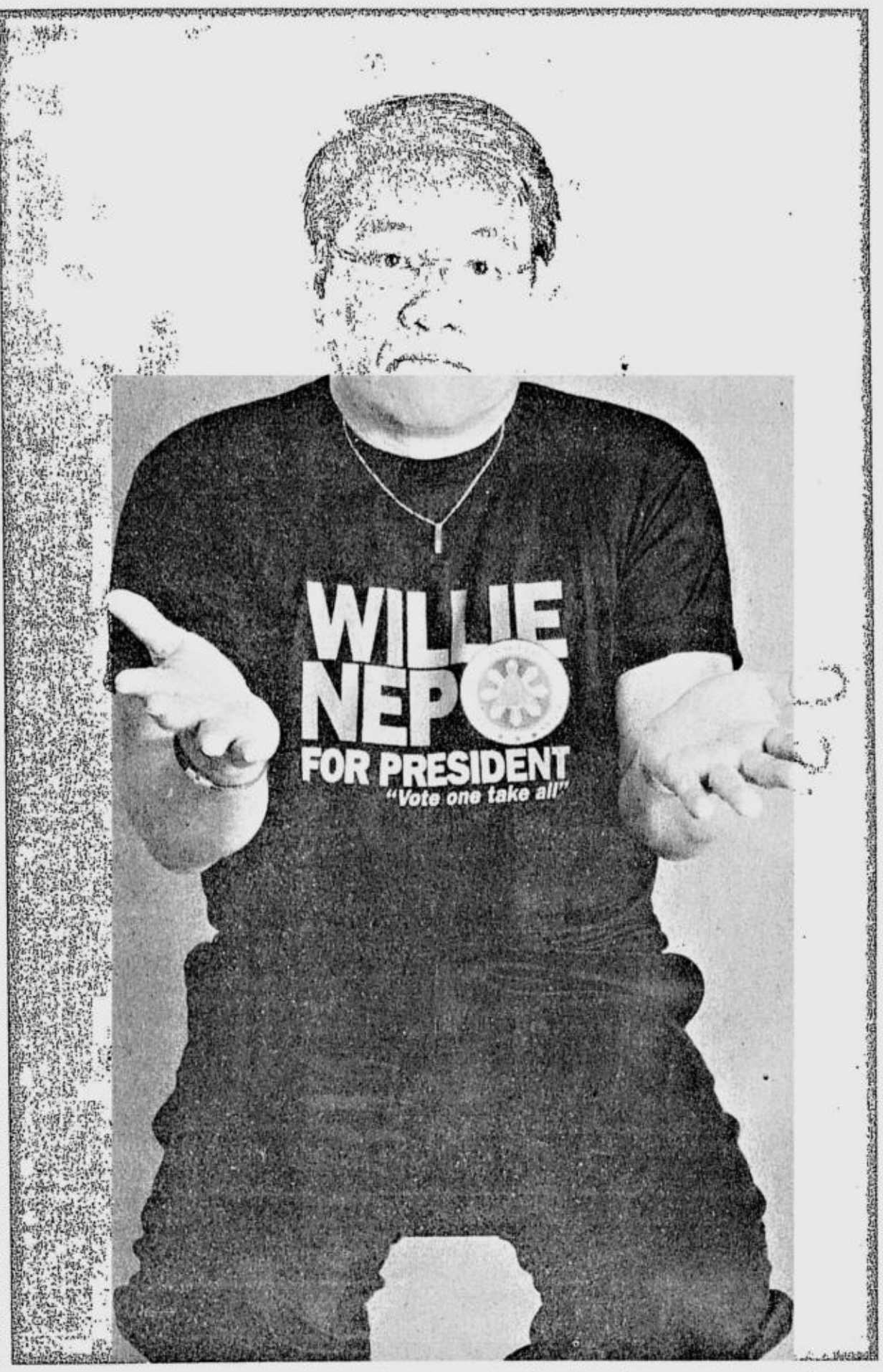

Stuck: " Now I have to sing in other people's voices"

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or an X-man, whichever comes first, the ultimate
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like a dragonfly when caught by its tail and call it
beauty, where flight depends on the size of the jar,
and food means two blades of grass, knowing
there's only one boy and no one else
to read you, one sun, one body, one broken
wing to color a page as God painted
zebras, give it speed and only you
to say it's done.

EJ C. Galang

Halina

They come to this world naked;
Naked they're asked to survive.

Then names are given
To further the undress.

Smile, weep, beg.
That one expression.

Then fame suddenly.
The poverty of fame.

Enjoyed, the privacy of public life.
The piracy of the public.

...who cannot look at them when looked at.
Who cannot look at whom.

Paolo Manalo

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Willie

...from page 1

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Even as a young boy

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wing to color a page as God painted
zebras, give it speed and only you
to say it's done.

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Halina

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Naked they're asked to survive.

Then names are given
To further the undress.

Smile, weep, beg.
That one expression.

Then fame suddenly.
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Young Achievers

By Joy Rojas
Photographs by August dela Cruz

Keeping the Peace

"A fighting chance": Baraquel sorts out campaign materials for her partylist group

What's a nice girl like Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel doing in the dirty world of Philippine politics? Finding hope and goodness in Pinoys is on the agenda of this tireless peace advocate

Eight-year-old Issa Baraquel knows exactly what her father does for a living. "He's a police officer," she says brightly of PNP superintendent Francisco Jr. It's what her mother Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel does, however, that is a bit of a mystery.

"I don't know," giggles Issa when asked to identify her mom's occupation. Baraquel is aghast. "What do you mean you don't know what I do?" she protests. "So what do I do when I go out of the house?"

"Meetings!" says Issa.

"And what do I do when I'm in the meetings?" her mom probes further.

"Uh, campaigns?"

Indeed, campaigns and meetings have been part of Ana Theresia Hontiveros-Baraquel's life for most of her 38 years. Of late, her appearances in public affairs programs and election sorties are to promote Akbayan, a party-list group she co-founded in 1995. As the voice of farmers, fisher folk, urban poor, OFWs, women, children, and other marginalized Filipinos, Akbayan has sat one of its members in Congress (Rep. Etta Rosales) after the '98 elections, two (Rosales and Rep. Mayong Aguja) after the 2001 polls. In the coming days, the group hopes to win enough votes to secure the maximum three seats in the House. "I think we have a fighting chance," assesses Baraquel of Akbayan, which has since grown into an 87,000-member-strong group.

Ultimate power meeting

Of course, negotiating peace talks with Jose Maria Sison and the National Democratic Front (NDF) presents itself as the ultimate power meeting. Tapped by Ambassador Howard Dy to fill in for the departing peace panelist Bridget Pawid, Baraquel (who was juggling hosting jobs in various news and public affairs shows with her work in the Coalition for Peace) joined the Government Panel for Peace Talks with the NDF in 1998. The panel, as well as other peace panels, was dissolved when then President Joseph Estrada declared war against Mindanao, but reconvened after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the presidency.

Of all the causes she took up through the years, peace was an ideal advocacy for Baraquel to embrace. "In high school, my mentors were National Democrats and to them, the highest form of political expression was armed struggle. I never liked that," she admits. "Even in my childhood I was always averse to physical violence. Having learned about active non-violence through my high school readings and in college, I decided to find a different tradition, a way to express my concern and involvement in a peaceful manner."

Unfortunately, not everyone shares this negotiator's view, so even if Joma Sison has been "more light-hearted, constructive and helpful" in recent discussions, the road to peace remains a very long way off.

"Actually, if you study the peace processes in other countries, they are really a mix of various factors—some strategic, some tactical. People have different definitions of peace, different conditions, different ways of going about it," Baraquel explains. "What we in the peace movement have been pointing out, not just to the NDF but to the government, is that the armed conflict has been going on for so long, it's become too costly and really a burden for people to carry! Lay down those arms!

"I think both sides have to make a paradigm shift," she continues. "Government must demilitarize itself, NDF the same. Make a strategic commitment to the peace process. That's just my biased point of view," she shrugs. "I don't see it happening."

No pushover

Statements like that prove that Baraquel is no pushover, even if her girlish face, melodic voice and sheltered upbringing suggest otherwise. Described by NDF panel chairman Luis Jalandoni as "a clerico-fascist and pseudo-social democrat," she dismisses the remark with an eye-rolling, "Oh, gee whiz. *Bahala siya!* They've known that I've been interested and involved in peace advocacies since I was a middle-class girl in high school. What can I do about my origin? What I do with myself from hereon, I guess it's on that basis that people will get to know me and form their opinions about me."

With her life in possible danger and peace nowhere in sight, it's a wonder Baraquel has never considered migrating. "Yes! You are so right! Never!" she answers excitedly. "A part of me will always remain idealistic and I don't apologize for that. My goodness, if we concede that we are this bad, how will we hope and aspire to be better? So many times in the past, we've shown that we are capable of such goodness, greatness even. We've proven it. We just need to make it part of our daily lives, not wait for a crisis to build up before we act heroically. Let's take social justice, democracy and humanism seriously."

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For A Cause

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

Luz Valencia chose to remain single to become mother to 34 children. Fortunately, there's more like her where she comes from—the SOS Children's Village

Bonding: "Mama Luz" (right) with children Noelyn Castillo (left), grandchild Frances Angela Rosales and Mary Rose Canatoy

A Passion for Motherhood

HAVING raised 34 children in 30 years, Luz Valencia, 55, has every reason to feel maternal—even if she did not actually give birth to any of them. Luz is an SOS mother, one of those remarkable women who have chosen to remain single to be able to raise orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children at the SOS Children's Village.

Over the past 40 years, SOS has taken in 843 Filipino children in its children's villages in Lipa, Batangas; Calbayog, Samar; Tacloban, Leyte; Cebu, Davao, Manila and Iloilo.

The first SOS Children's Village was founded in 1949 in Imst, Austria by Dr. Hermann Gmeiner, who had lost his mother when he was 5. The trauma of this childhood loss coupled with his having witnessed hundreds of children orphaned by World War II in Europe moved Gmeiner to establish homes for them.

Valencia, or "Mama Luz" to her SOS children, was an aspirant at the Sisters of the Sacred Heart Order in Lipa City when she first heard of the group from a fellow catechist.

"I had to leave the convent to take care of my sickly mother," recalls this fourth of six siblings born to an unschooled farmer-carpenter and a seamstress.

"Favorite son": De Castro (left) with Mama Luz, daughter Aimy and wife Aida

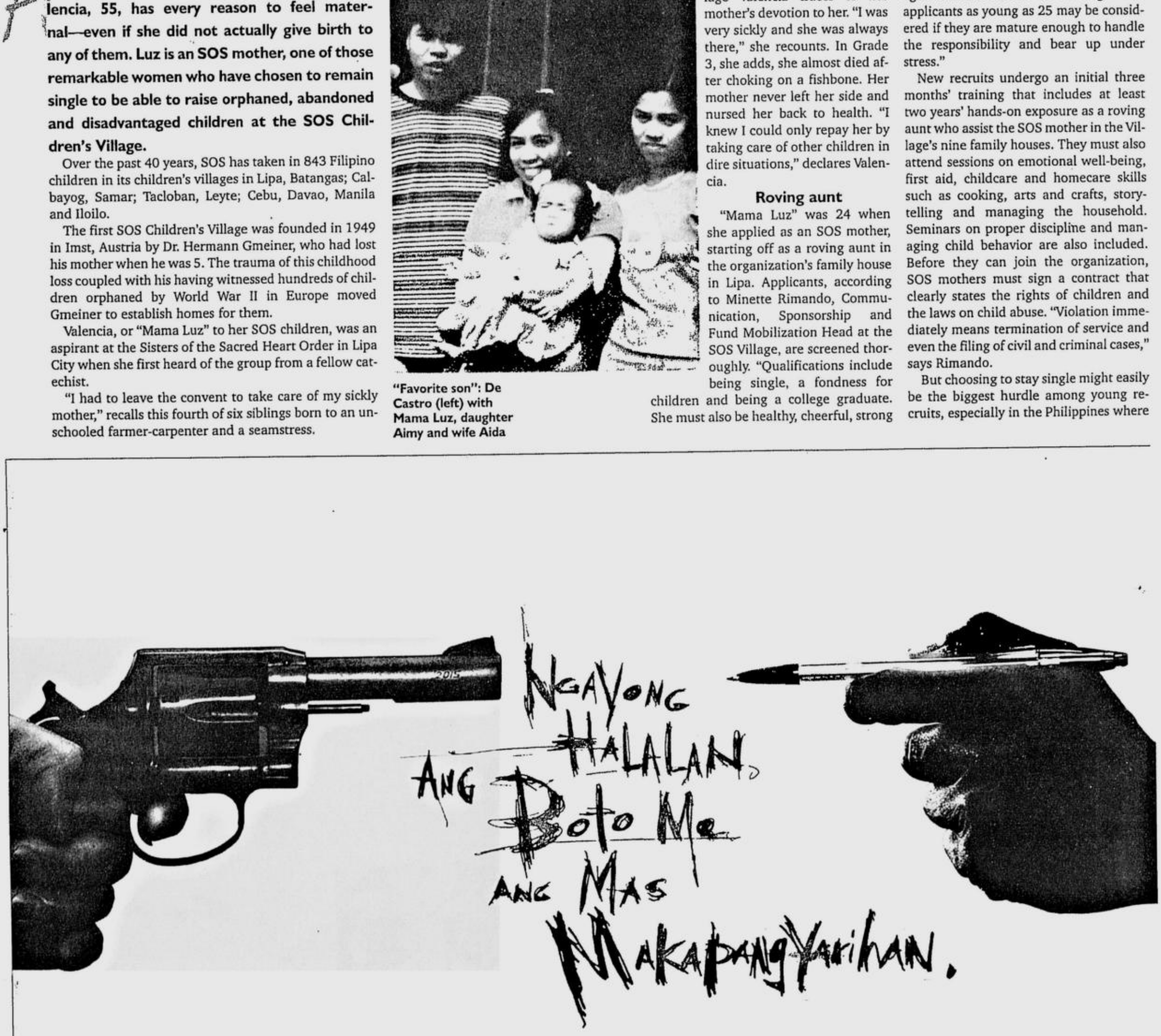
Her decision to join SOS Village Valencia traces to her mother's devotion to her. "I was very sickly and she was always there," she recounts. In Grade 3, she adds, she almost died after choking on a fishbone. Her mother never left her side and nursed her back to health. "I knew I could only repay her by taking care of other children in dire situations," declares Valencia.

Roving aunt

"Mama Luz" was 24 when she applied as an SOS mother, starting off as a roving aunt in the organization's family house in Lipa. Applicants, according to Minette Rimando, Communication, Sponsorship and Fund Mobilization Head at the SOS Village, are screened thoroughly. "Qualifications include being single, a fondness for children and being a college graduate. She must also be healthy, cheerful, strong and stable. Generally, we prefer those aged between 28 and 40 although even applicants as young as 25 may be considered if they are mature enough to handle the responsibility and bear up under stress."

New recruits undergo an initial three months' training that includes at least two years' hands-on exposure as a roving aunt who assist the SOS mother in the Village's nine family houses. They must also attend sessions on emotional well-being, first aid, childcare and homecare skills such as cooking, arts and crafts, storytelling and managing the household. Seminars on proper discipline and managing child behavior are also included. Before they can join the organization, SOS mothers must sign a contract that clearly states the rights of children and the laws on child abuse. "Violation immediately means termination of service and even the filing of civil and criminal cases," says Rimando.

But choosing to stay single might easily be the biggest hurdle among young recruits, especially in the Philippines where



All her children: Some of "Mama Luz's" 34 children

having a family and raising children is often equated with being "a fulfilled woman." Valencia admits to having such reservations. "I had a boyfriend for three to four years but I broke off with him eventually because my SOS children begged me to stay with them. 'He's just one and we are many,' they pleaded and I gave in." Her co-workers, she adds, also assured her that she will be taken care of in her twilight years. Indeed, says Rimando, the SOS Village has health and retirement benefits for its workers. "SOS mothers can render service until they're 60 years old after which they can stay in our retirement homes. But many choose to stay and continue serving as grandmothers."

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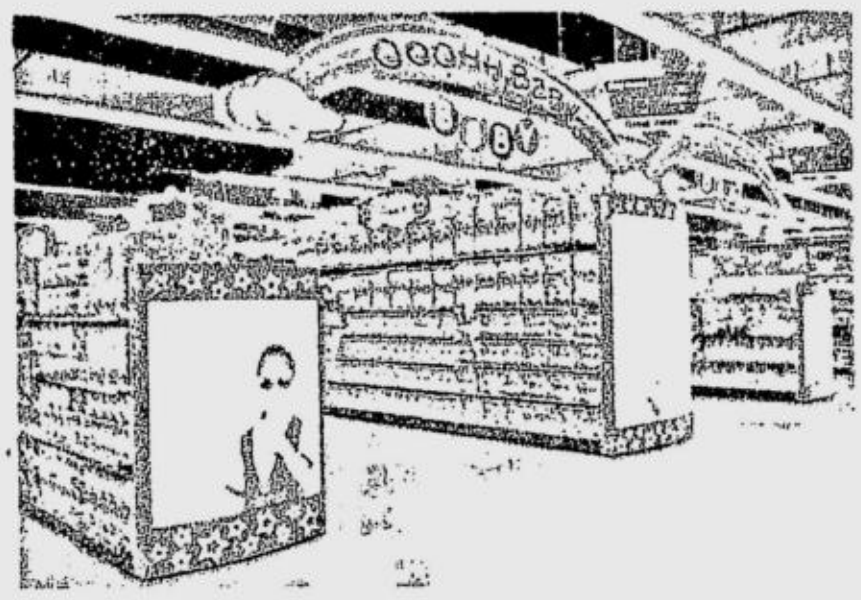

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"For years, Fiesta Carnival has been a well-loved landmark with very positive values associated with it: family, good times, and fun. But times are changing and the past and future must converge. This is a positive sign of change, growth, and progress," notes Shopwise VP for Store Operations, Manuel C. Alberto. Although Fiesta Carnival has since moved to a more appropriate outdoor location, Shopwise continues its carnival theme not only through its grand opening but by adapting a fun and colorful atmosphere in the store. Where the carnival has left rise an everyday festival of fearless fun, freshness, and value."

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Guests were treated to a high-energy production show making use of dance concepts interspersed with flying and aerial acrobatics performed by Douglas Nierras and the Powerdance, followed by private tour and shopping.

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The day culminated with a free open-air concert featuring Aegis, Pido with Take One, and Parokya Ni Edgar.

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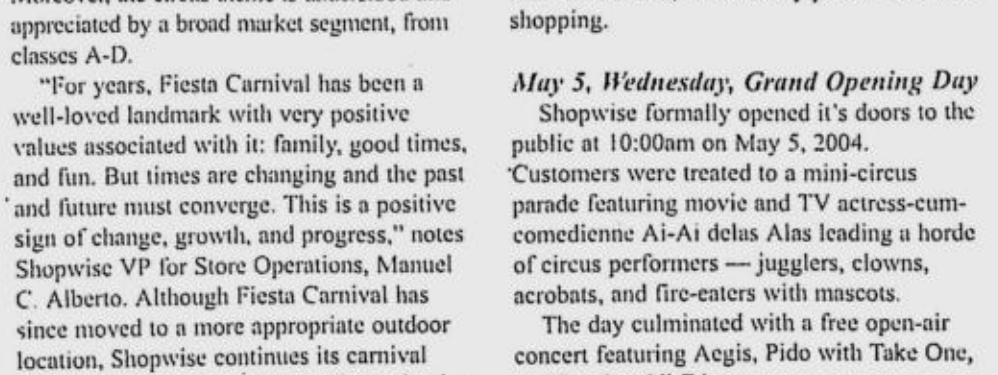

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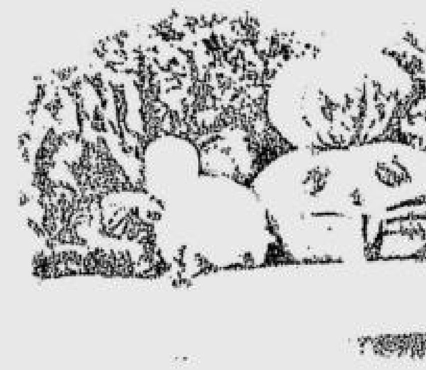

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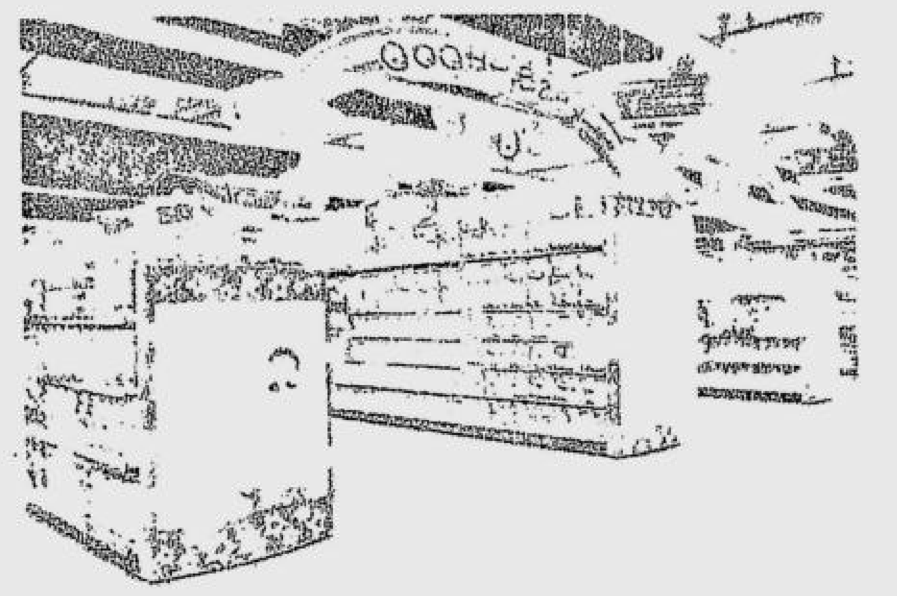

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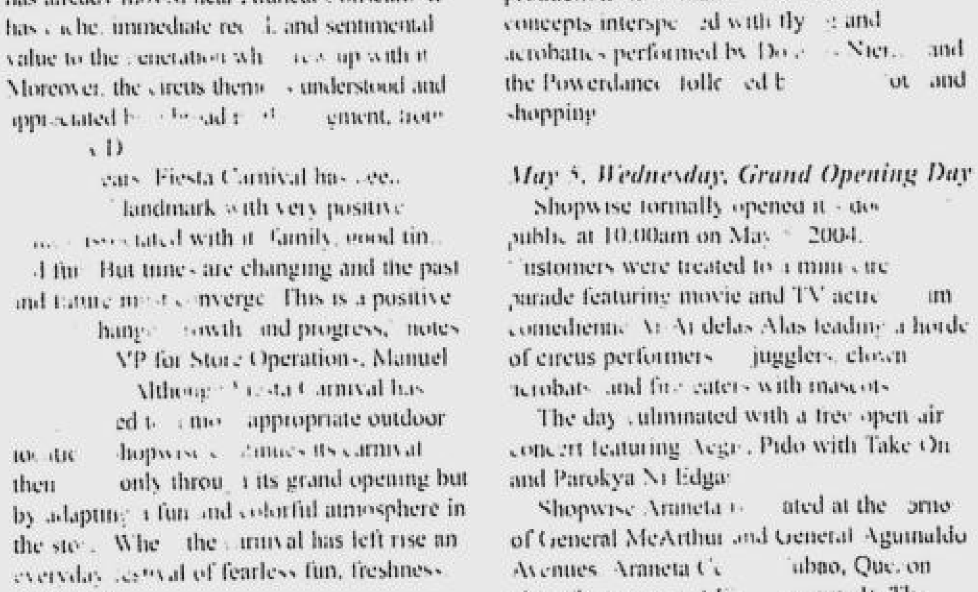

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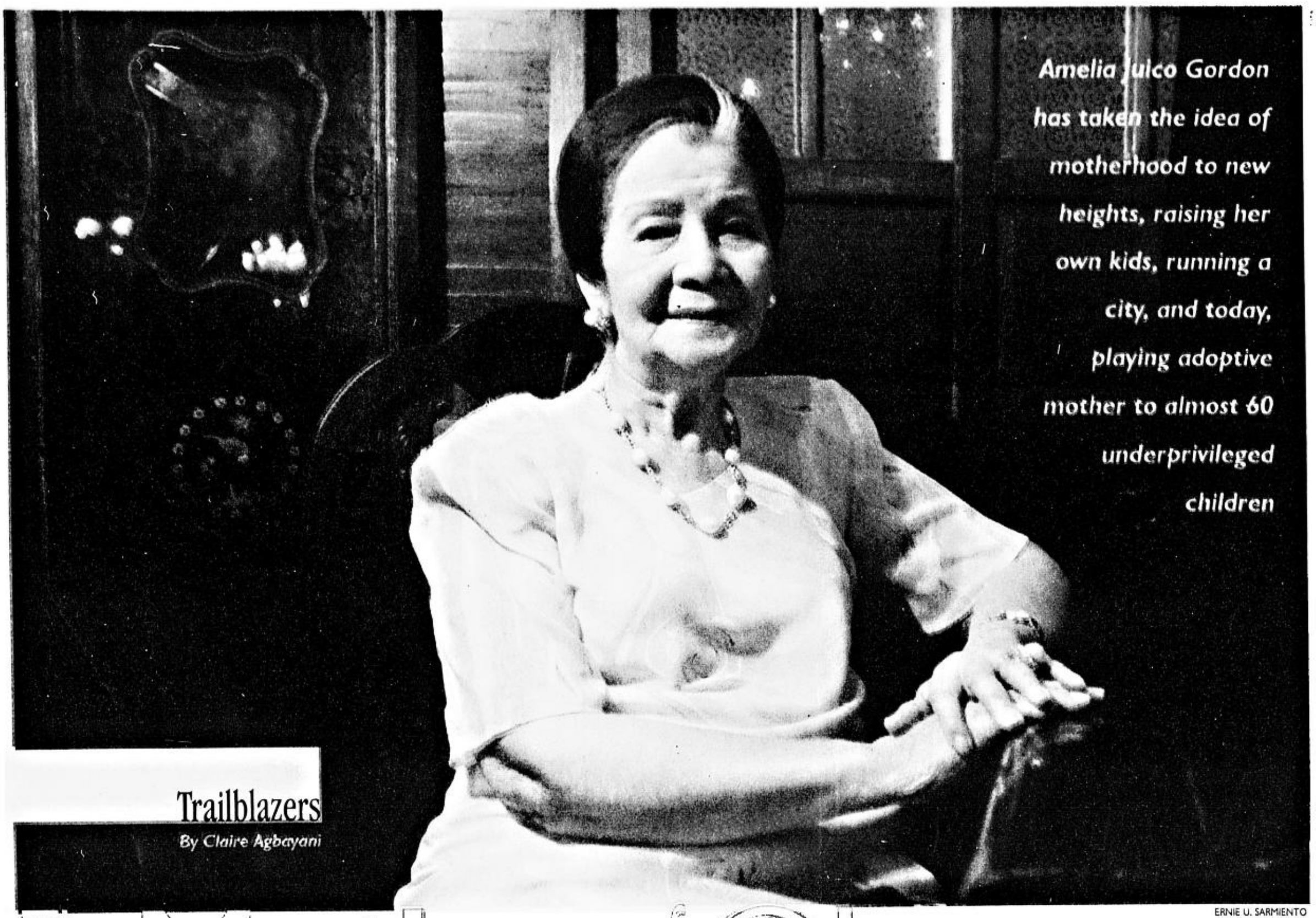

Amelia Juico Gordon has taken the idea of motherhood to new heights, raising her own kids, running a city, and today, playing adoptive mother to almost 60 underprivileged children

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Trailblazers

By Claire Agbayani

The Mother of Olongapo

TEAR tears, restaurateur Barbara "Bai" Gordon de los Reyes remembers how growing up in the Gordon household in Olongapo was "very complicated, but challenging, enriching." Her brother, former SBMA chair, Tourism secretary, and now aspiring senator Richard "Dick" Gordon recalls coming home for the summer break after 10 months of schooling at the Ateneo de Manila and finding his bed occupied by yet another waif taken in by his mother, Amelia Juico Gordon.

Oftentimes, members of the family would celebrate occasions like Christmas and New Year's Eve at 2 a.m. of Christmas and New Year's Day because their mother would visit her wards first at Boys' Town and Girls' Home.

In her lifetime, Amelia has legally adopted close to 60 children. She began her role as foster mother to unwanted children in the late 1950s. Poor, newly-born infants were handed to her and her husband, or were literally left at their doorstep. "Every time an abandoned or orphaned baby was brought to our home, my husband Jimmy and I would catch each other's glance, wondering how the other felt. The longer we looked at each other, the harder it was to refuse," she recalls.

The living room, and even the basement which was later converted into a nursery, soon proved too crowded for all the wards of the Gordons. Thus, in 1959, they decided to put up a bigger home (called Boys' Town and Girls' Home) to shelter orphaned children of American descent in a 27-hectare property in what is now known as New Cabalan district in the outskirts of Olongapo. Ironically, American servicemen from the adjoining Subic Naval base (the biggest naval facility outside of the US) helped build six low-level buildings to house the young occupants. In 2002, Pearl S. Buck, International (PSBI) honored Amelia with the Woman of the Year Award "for her life-long dedication to children and adoption." In her acceptance speech, she said, "The faces of hunger, of abandonment and brokenness have stared at me through the innocent eyes of children, crying in silence for comfort or relief in their simplest needs to live." The children may not be the couple's, Amelia explained, "but they belong to God, and we can't turn away any of God's own."

Joyful memories

Amelia is very proud of her "children": "One of the most joyful memories I have with my children was when they performed as a full rondalla—a strings and wind orchestra. None of the bands in our community could rival them. It would always touch me when they put smiles on our faces, and brought tears to the eyes of tough American servicemen."

Some of the couple's adopted children, now adults, lead normal lives and are healthy, productive citizens. One of them is a nurse who recently got married to a doctor. Two are pastors.

As for her current wards? "We always feel loved," says 14-year-old Leah. "We really love her," both Marivic, 10, and Bong, 9, say.

At this time of the year, during the summer break, these children are not idle. They are kept busy with some sort of on-the-job-training in the Gordon household or any of the businesses of the family.

While Sarah Mae, 19, assists in the kitchen of Barbara's restaurant in Intramuros, Leah, 14, washes the dishes. Arriane, 26, on the other hand, is getting training from Bai herself in decorating the elegant interiors of the restaurant.

Perhaps Amelia herself is their best model. Born Amelia Nepomuceno Juico on 4 September 1919 in Subic, Zambales, Amelia was the seventh of 11 children. Amelia's father, who used to be the mayor of the then municipality of Subic, passed away while she was barely in her teens. To help augment the family income, she stopped schooling, rose early in the morning to peddle different kinds of native delicacies, and eventually, to tend her mother's meat stall in the public market.

Culturally displaced

"I inherited my love for the less fortunate from my parents and my *lola* who took care of the poor Aetas in Subic in the olden days." Amelia recalls that the pygmy aborigines who live in the jungles of Zambales and Bataan were physically and culturally displaced by the onrush of settlers in the lowlands in the early 1900s.

She eventually established and successfully managed the Gordon's family's businesses, which included a centrally-located air-conditioned restaurant, a cinema, a grocery, a bakery and a multi-story hotel.

She also founded the Iba-Olongapo Catholic Women's League, the Olongapo Red Cross and the Olongapo Civic Action Group.

Amelia did all these while raising her brood, which include Veronica Lorenzana, Bai, Cecille Mullen, Dick, Olongapo congressman James Jr., and Imelda Deza.

Public service is nothing new to Amelia. Her father was then mayor of the municipality of Subic, Zambales. In 1965, her husband Jimmy was elected mayor of the mucipality of Olongapo. In 1966, Olongapo became a city—as Jimmy had envisioned it to be. The year after, though, he was felled by an assassin's bullet right in the lobby of city hall. During his term, Jimmy started a massive campaign against illegal logging, fighting well-entrenched syndicates which made Olongapo the center of their business activities. He inevitably antagonized the corrupt rich and powerful who lobbied to protect their vested business interests. His war against crime and corruption cost him his life. Countless people openly wept over the violent murder of their founding father. Stricken with grief, Amelia had to be strong for her sons and daughters. "It was so painful, so sad," she recalls, "and so many came to pay their respects."

Battlecry

And long before Ninoy Aquino was slain at the tarmac of the international airport, and his widow Cory catapulted to candidacy for the highest office in the land, there already was a clamor for another widow to take over the reins of city hall. "Bring Gordon back to City Hall!" became the battlecry of the people of Olongapo.

The threats on her life notwitstanding, Amelia became the first elected mayor of Olongapo City. She built her campaign on her late husband's platform of good government.

As mayor, Amelia completed the first Master Plan for the city through the Olongapo Land Development and Urban Planning Autority—an interdisciplinary planning group of resident professionals and government officials. This she did 20 years before the end of the Mutual Bases Agreeement. After her term ended in 1971, she served as assemblywoman in the Batasang Pambansa in 1972.

A congressional act Amelia spearheaded enabled the proceeds from the sales of titled land within the city to be retained in the city treasury as the community's development fund. She built new settlements and extended the city's public service to the residents of formerly unserved communities.

"When we're young, we make inner vows not to be like our mothers, but we end up being exactly like them," Bai says. When Bai was young, she told herself, "I will never be like my mom. I will never be in the restaurant business." But Bai now has a flower shop and a restaurant—businesses her mother had while they were growing up.

Bai's advice for Mother's Day? "Honor your parents, that all may be right with you."

As for Amelia, when asked how she was, she replied, "*Eto, buhay pa rin. Maraming anak.*" (Here, still alive. And with lots of kids.)

A Passion ...from page 4

terview and pictorial. "She was my first infant. She was only a month old when I got her," this SOS mother recalls. Of her true parents she knows nothing about, nor is she that interested, says Mary Rose. "Mama Luz is my real mother now."

Parents who change their minds and opt to take their children back from the SOS Village are welcome to visit them, says Rimando. Should they want to reclaim the youngsters, they must go through a process, she adds, "although we won't hinder that since our goal is to build a natural family for the children in need. If there's a way for us to reconcile them with their biological family, then we won't prevent it." To her knowledge however, such a case has yet to happen.

Challenges

For all the success stories, there are also problems or "challenges," as Mama Luz prefers to call them. There's the case of this girl who was 10 when she witnessed her mother killed by a family friend. Now 15, she has vowed to become a lawyer so she could find justice and avenge her mother's death. "She's very stressed out although she's undergone psychiatric care," says Mama Luz. "She'd often stare out into space and then would just start screaming. She's under medication." Another girl was an incest survivor who found it difficult to cope with her lessons. Only 14 when she was brought in, she's now 21 and a single parent who has found work as a domestic helper.

Despite such challenges, Mama Luz says the rewards of being an SOS mother has made her stay these past 30 years. "I now have 37 grandchildren from 10 of my married children," she says proudly. "I get enough compensation and was even able to buy a house and lot for my siblings. Now I'm helping my nieces and nephews in their studies." Her latest project, she says, is to come up with the show money that a niece needs for a job abroad. "Seeing my children finish their studies and become successful in their career and in building up their own family is my biggest reward," she declares.

Recently, Mama Luz received a more tangible reward for her efforts: the Asia Pacific Excellence Award for Humanitarian Service given by the Gintong Ina Award Foundation. But the award isn't hers alone, she demurs. "It's not a personal honor, but a recognition of the role that SOS mothers have played in giving disadvantaged children a mother's love. I was just an instrument," she says bashfully.

Her 34 children would dispute that, but then again, nobody argues with their mother.

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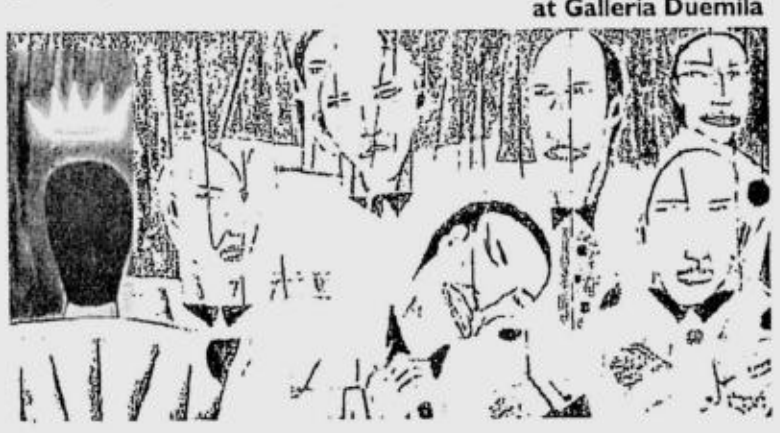

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Pinoy Ngat

By Jess Abrera

Antipolo Pilgrimage

Willie ...from page 2

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"There are times when I asses what I'm doing and ask myself: Am I doing the right thing? *Aktibista ako, tama ba na nasa* show biz *ako* (I'm an acitivist, is it right for me to be in show biz)?

"Sad to say, I'm not really as passionate as before," he confesses. "I'm beginning to feel that this form of criticism is no longer effective. Every other impersonator is doing the same thing. If graft and corruption are so bad, maybe the people involved are as bad. *Hindi na yata tinatablan, namanhid na* (They've grown numb to it so they're not affected anymore). Maybe its time has come, and we need to find a new form." Q

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

Lessening the Pain

We talk as if there's nothing wrong—and that hurts. I can't go on begging him to love me again because I think I've done enough to make him do that

Dear Joe,

After 11 years of being apart from my chilhood friend Tim, I finally saw him again. That night was the start of a beautiful relationship with him. It was so magical that I forgot I already had a boyfriend. Even my parents didn't know about Tim because I know they'd get mad at me.

But what could I do? I'm just 17 and so confused. Even though I already had a boyfriend, I started seeing Tim and ended up choosing him over my previous boyfriend. Our relationship was fine until suddenly, he seemed to grow cold. It eventually led to him telling me, "I need some time and I need to be apart from you."

My world came crashing down and I didn't know what to do. I was hurt, Joe, so hurt that even my friends thought I was going crazy when I would laugh in front of them. Deep inside, I was dying.

Tim calls occasionally, and that adds more to the confusion because when I say I'm ready to let go, he shakes up my world again. We talk as if there's nothing wrong—and that hurts. This pain grows stronger as the days pass. I know that time will lessen the pain but I'm so tired of being afraid that my dreams of being with him won't come true. I know this is stupid but that's how I feel. And Joe, I have my pride to protect. I can't go on begging him to love me again because I think I've done enough to make him do that.

I know I'm still young and guys will come and go, but I just can't seem to get over him. Until now, I'm still hoping that he'll be back but chances are getting slimmer. And maybe he already has someone else in his life now. I may not be the one who'll take care of him, but I hope that he'd be happy. I just want that for him.

Janel

Dear Janel,

The best part of being in love with someone is being convinced that that person will be with us forever. Most of us start relationships believing in the promise of love without end. Unfortunately, not all relationships end the way we want them to.

To some, love comes in a fleeting moment and goes just as fast. But getting over the feeling always seems to take a lifetime, because the only person who can heal the pain is usually the very same person who hurt us and made us cry. Sometimes just as we are about to accept the failure of our relationship, that person comes back to us and unknowingly destroys our defenses. Suddenly, we find ourselves hooked on love again. And it hurts even more because we know that person doesn't share the same feeling anymore. Even if there is the urge to forget because it hurts, there would always be that compelling reason to hope for love to come back. It is like waiting for the sun to shine in the middle of a storm.

Janel, the love that brings us pain should be the same love that would heal our hearts. When you love so much that it begins to hurt, then you have to learn to let go to lessen your pain. Love hurts, and sometimes it hurts like there is no tomorrow. But there still is and there will always be one. No matter how battered and stricken we have been, there will always be a tomorrow that will bring hope and love. But that tomorrow will never come unless we leave the past behind and live today as we should.

Let the pain remain for a while and let the tears fall as they please. Then after all that, move on and find your place in this world where you will feel that everything is going to be all right. Q

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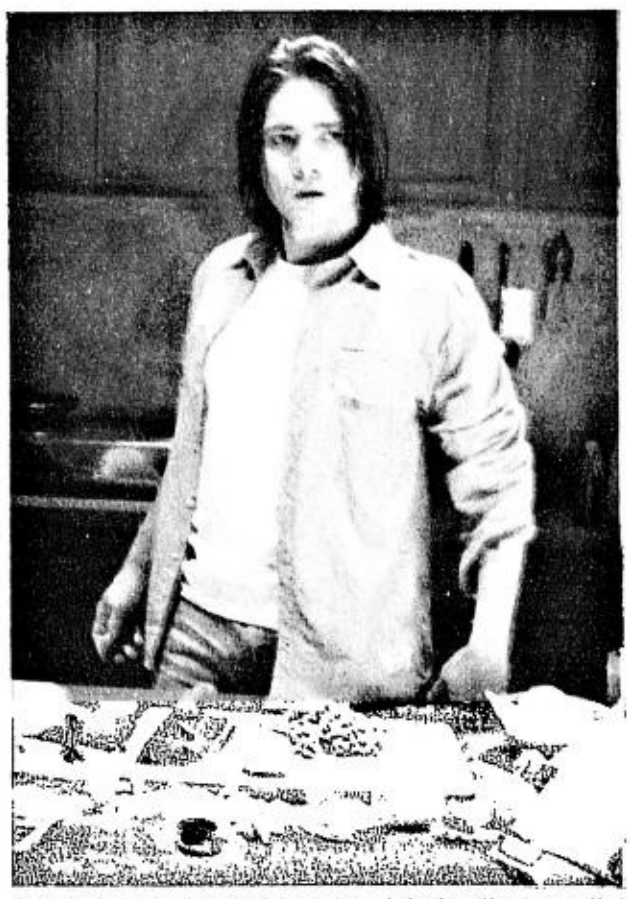
High-flying martial arts action with Robin Padilla

Now showing on primetime television, the new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds TVC gives local audiences the rare chance to see Robin in action-packed fight scenes with stuntmen who have worked in Jacky Chan's kung fu movies

Get to watch high flying martial arts action in the latest television commercial (TVC) of Argentina Corned Beef topbilled by no less than action superstar Robin Padilla. The TVC introduces the brand's newest corned beef variant, Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds.

Directed by top Hong Kong director Alexi Tan, the Argentina TVC is done in feature-film style, showcasing impressive kung fu moves by Robin. A crew of martial arts stuntmen from Hong Kong flew to Manila especially for the TVC, training the actor in the subtleties of this age-old martial art.



Robin getting ready for some ninja-busting martial arts action during the shoot.

"The fighting scenes are totally different from what people usually see me do in my films," shared Robin. "*Dito*, they will see me do some kung fu moves like flying kicks and roundhouse kicks which, believe me, are not as easy as they appear to be." The star added, "The stuntmen have actually worked with Jacky Chan in his movies. They really know what they're doing, and for me to be working with them and learning more about martial arts was a great experience."

With the martial arts experts from Hong Kong, viewers get to enjoy a breathtaking exhibition of flawless, technically superb martial arts fighting scenes never before seen in a local TV commercial. The flying kicks, hand and body movements are executed with impressive swiftness and precision.

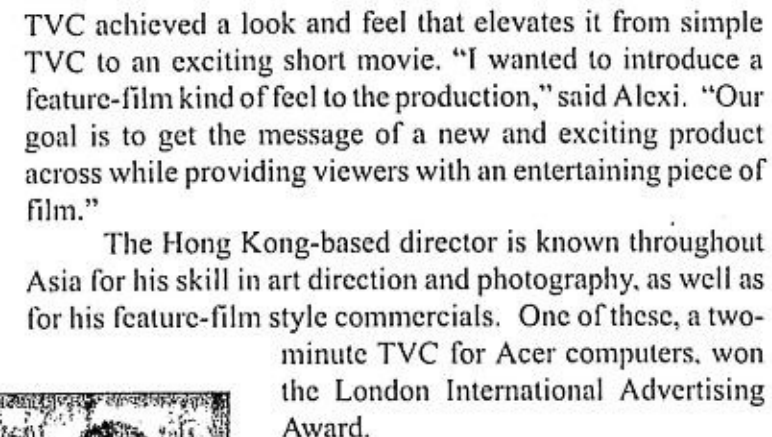
Battling it out with a ninja

Apart from the fighting sequences, Robin also had to do a few new stunts. Like in kung fu movies where the stars seem to fly in the air, Robin also achieves that with the help of a harness. "*Medyo nakakanerbiyos dahil ngayon pa lang ako gumamit ng* harness," said Robin. "But it turned out really good."

The new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds commercial is actually a short film where Robin plays a cop, a role very similar to his character in his TV series *Basta't Kasama Kita*. The TVC opens with Robin, who, after a long day's work, plans to enjoy a meal of his favorite Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds. But while cooking, ninjas suddenly appear to attack him, and what follows is a brilliant display of fighting scenes and stunts typical of Hong Kong martial arts flicks.

Indeed, the new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds has a taste that's really worth fighting for. Sourced from the best cattle capitals of the world, the new corned beef variant is made from hi-grade imported beef carefully selected and hashed to achieve longer shreds, then blended with select spices and seasoning to achieve the delightfully premium taste Argentina is known for.

To introduce the new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds, Robin gladly took the time out from his busy schedule (he is busy taping six days a week for the TV series, *Basta't Kasama Kita*) to be able to work on the TVC. Under the direction of Alexi, the TVC achieved a look and feel that elevates it from simple TVC to an exciting short movie. "I wanted to introduce a feature-film kind of feel to the production," said Alexi. "Our goal is to get the message of a new and exciting product across while providing viewers with an entertaining piece of film."



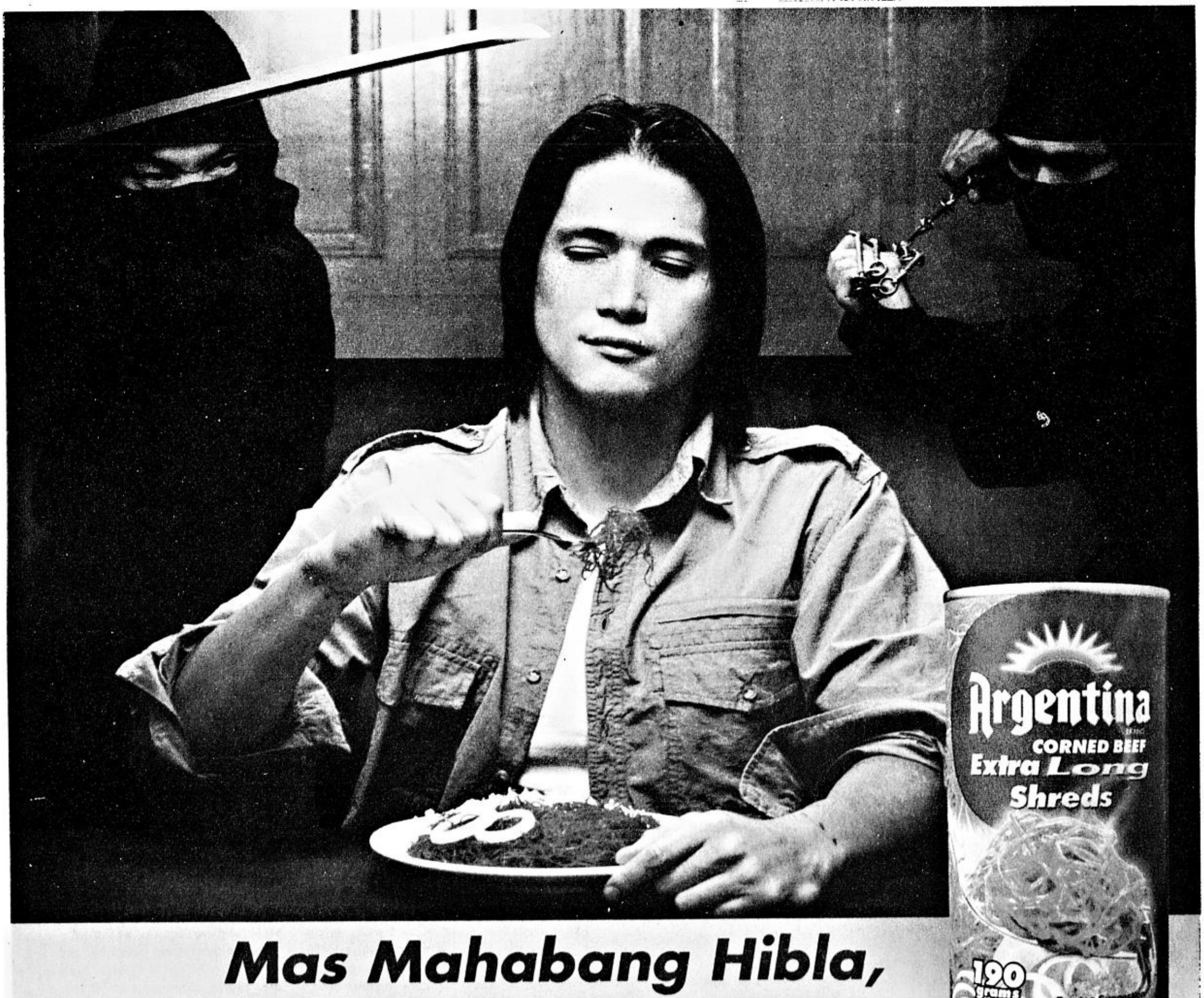
Flying kick a la Robin

Robin with top Hong Kong director Alexi Tan

The Hong Kong-based director is known throughout Asia for his skill in art direction and photography, as well as for his feature-film style commercials. One of these, a two-minute TVC for Acer computers, won the London International Advertising Award.

Like Robin, Alexi was equally excited to work with the local action superhero. "Robin was such a pleasant artist to work with, he's a fast learner and he's willing to experiment."

The feeling, it seems, is mutual. The local star stressed that while the stunts were hard to do, he nonetheless enjoyed the experience of working with Alexi. "After all, it's not everyday that you're given a chance to work with such a talented director and with some of Asia's top kung fu stuntmen," Robin said.



Mas Mahabang Hibla,
Mas Pinahabang Sarap!